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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN



*Annual Report*  
on the  
*Health*  
of the  
*County Borough of Wigan*  
by the  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
1957

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN



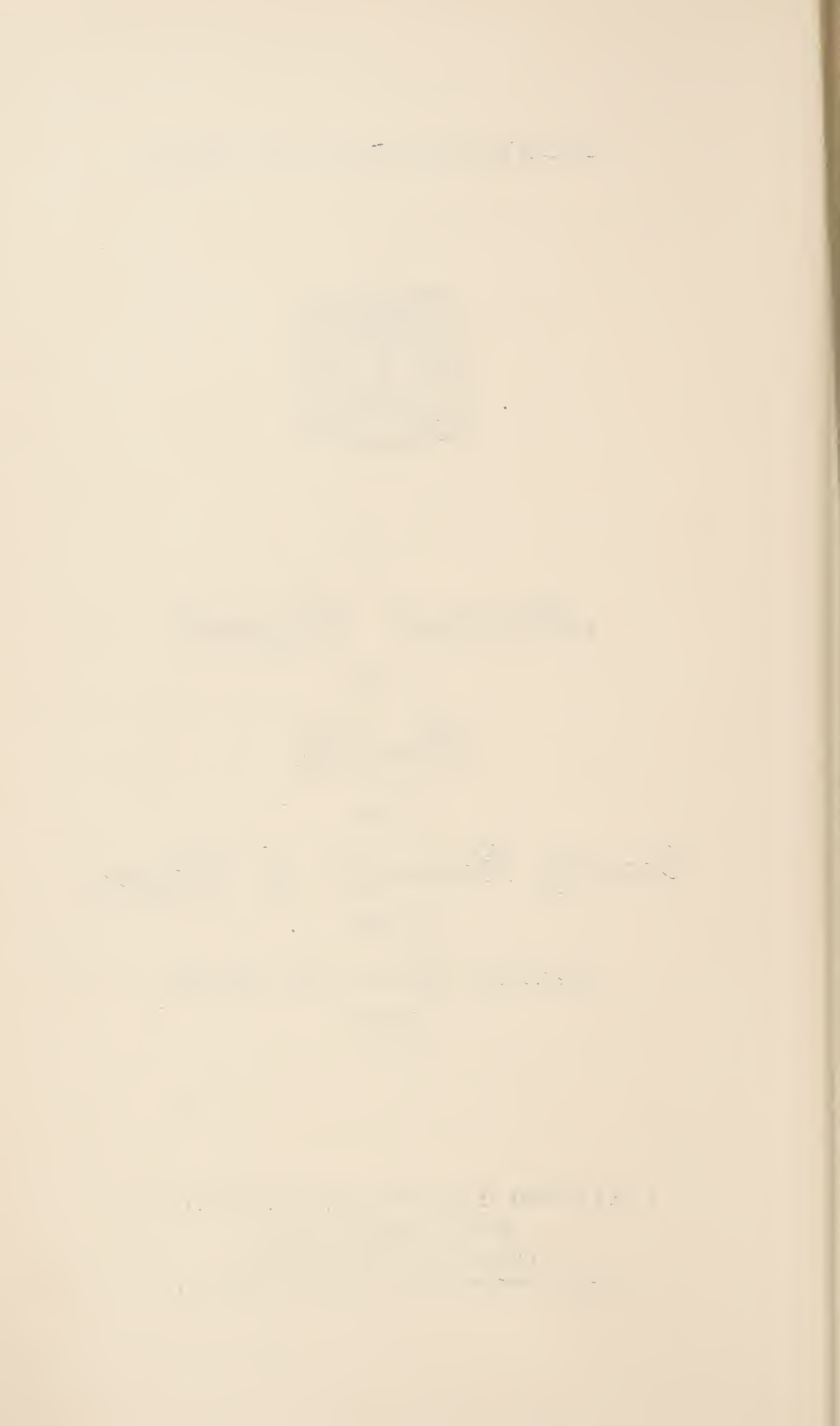
*Annual Report*  
on the  
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*1957*

J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., (Vict.).

Medical Officer of Health.

Principal School Medical Officer.

Medical Referee of the Borough Crematorium.





# CONTENTS

[illegible]

## HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1957

### (Appointed 22nd May, 1957)

Chairman	....	....	Councillor J. T. LYNCH, J.P.	
Vice-Chairman	....	....	Councillor J. BOWDEN	
The Mayor	....	....	Councillor O. SOMERS, J.P.	
Alderman	....	....	H. DOWLING, J.P.	
Councillors	....	....	J. COLLINS	F. CONNOLLY
			P. DONNELLY	E. DRONEY
			J. T. FARRIMOND	T. MONKS
			MRS. E. NAYLOR	W. J. PRICE, B.Sc.
			J. RANKIN	S. SHERRATT
			J. TABERNER	
Co-opted Members	....		DR. D. W. JOHNSON	MR. J. HEGARTY
			MRS. B. G. HOUGHTON	MRS. C. RAYNOR
			Councillor S. TAYLOR	

### STAFF, 1957

Medical Officer of Health		J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Vict.).
Assistant Medical Officers		I. M. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. *R. McLEAN BAIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Dental Officer	....	*C. F. L. PURSLOW, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.
Consultant Obstetric Surgeon		*R. L. HARTLEY, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S. (E.).
Chest Physician	....	*E. H. W. DEANE, M.B., B.S.
Consultant Venereologist	....	*PHILIP S. SILVER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Orthopaedic Surgeon	....	*MISS M. F. JOHNSTONE, M.B., Ch.B.
Ophthalmic Surgeon	....	*E. H. L. COOK, M.B., F.R.C.S., D.O.M.S.

Public Analyst .... \*J. GRAHAM SHERRATT, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector V. JONES (*a*) (*b*).

Deputy Chief Public Health

Inspector .... J. B. MARSH (*a*) (*b*) (*f*).

Public Health Inspectors .... R. C. WOODS (*a*) (*b*)

P. STRAFFORD (*a*) (*b*) (*f*)

C. JACKSON (*a*) (*b*)

M. RICHARDS (*a*) (*b*) (*f*)

E. HARRIS (*a*) (*b*) (*f*)

J. TINTO (*a*)

E. MARSDEN (*a*) (*b*) (*f*)

Senior Health Visitor .... E. M. WRIGHT (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (*g*)

Health Visitors .... C. JACKSON (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (*g*)

C. V. KILCULLEN (*d*) (*e*)

A. PAINTER (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (*g*)

V. M. PARKINSON (*c*) (*d*) (*e*)

M. J. WALMESLEY (*c*) (*d*) (*e*)

Z. M. VERNON (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (*g*)

P. M. KING (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (from 1st July)

J. WHALLEY (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (from 1st July)

Tuberculosis Nurse .... E. CODY (*c*) (*d*)

Supervisor of Midwives .... W. KAY (*c*) (*d*)

## Midwives :

R. M. HADDOCK (c) (d)	D. CAREY (c) (d)
M. QUINN (c) (d)	C. MORRIS (c) (d) (retired 12th Jan.)
E. S. ROGERS (c)	J. I. RAMSAY (c) (d)
E. WILLIAMS (c) (d)	C. RYDER (c) (d)
P. WAITE (c) (d)	M. WOODWARD (c)
A. PATTERSON (c) (d) (from 8th Mar.)	S. M. STUART (c) (d)
ELLESMERE ROAD NURSERY MATRON	M. F. LUCAS (d) (h)
HOME NURSING SUPERINTENDENT ....	L. MAHER (c) (d) (g)
OCCUPATION CENTRE SUPERVISOR ....	J. HANSON
CHIEF CLERK ....	A. N. BYERS

## Mental Health Service :

Authorised Officers and Mental Health Visitors ....	V. CROWLEY J. A. PIETRE, B.A. J. AINSCOUGH
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## Welfare Services :

Senior Assistant ....	A. SIMM
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## Ambulance Service .

Ambulance Officer ....	T. A. ATHERTON, B.E.M.
------------------------	------------------------

## \* Part-Time Officers.

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Meat Inspectors Certificate.
- (c) Certificate, Central Midwives Board.
- (d) General Trained.
- (e) The Royal Sanitary Institute Health Visitors Certificate.
- (f) The Royal Sanitary Institute Smoke Inspectors Certificate.
- (g) Queen's Nurse.
- (h) Registered Fever Nurse.



## INTRODUCTION

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Wigan.*

‘The healthy know not of their health but only the sick :  
this is the physicians’ aphorism.’

THOMAS CARLISLE “ *Characteristics* ”

Judged on the basis of accomplishments over a period of twelve months, progress in raising the standard of health of a community would seem to be painfully slow. Always the workers in preventive medicine have to combat apathy from those who take good health for granted and the “bottle of medicine” philosophy of the sick who consider that there is nothing more to the cure of their condition than the taking of a stated dose of medicine at regular intervals. Yet defect in the individual’s environment, sanitary and otherwise, is the greatest single cause of departure from health, both physical and mental. The improvement of environment is necessarily a slow and costly process and must go hand in hand with the education of all classes to accept new standards, new methods and to discard what may have seemed reasonable to them for generations. Inevitably £ s. d. comes into the picture and whether it be the extra copper per pound on hygienically pre-packed foods or the greater price of smokeless fuel as against the lower grade bituminous coal, it is the housewife who must choose and when real incomes are low the cheaper alternative will be chosen unless she has been taught to believe that it is better to spend a little more on clean food than risk the loss of her husband’s wages through food poisoning; that it is the smoke going up her chimney which is helping to cause the bronchitis which has incapacitated so many of her relatives and friends from time to time. On the other hand the various commercial interests have a part to play. In particular the sooner the price of smokeless space heating can be brought within striking distance of present methods the sooner will the skies be cleared of their ‘aerial sewage.’ Slow as our progress may seem, it often helps to look back from whence we have journeyed and to this end comparisons with the statistics of previous years are made in certain sections of the report.

On the whole 1957 has been a good year. Once again there was no maternal death and the infantile mortality rate at 24.8 per thousand births is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. In particular the neo-natal rate has dropped from 24.1 in 1956 to 14.4 in the year now under review. The perinatal rate has reduced from 54 to 43 in the same period. For the first time congenital abnormality outstripped prematurity as the major cause of death of infants in their first year of life, surely a striking testimony to the intrepid work of the doctors, midwives, health visitors and all who labour to keep together the tripartite national maternity service, the ramifications of which are at present being investigated by the Cranbrooke Committee.

In the field of infectious disease the most dramatic incidents were the investigation of an outbreak of food poisoning which originated in the Borough, and the investigation of a single case of typhoid fever which had surprising results. Details of both are given in the report. Asian influenza swept through the town during September and October and although it is not possible to give the numbers of cases which occurred as the disease is not notifiable, the numbers of persons applying for sickness benefit rose at the height of the epidemic to five times the normal figure for the time of the year. The epidemic lasted between five and six weeks. It is interesting to note that the death rate from influenza, 0.12, trebled during the year as compared with 1956. There were five cases of paralytic poliomyelitis notified, with one death.

The Department has been kept particularly busy with immunization and other protective procedures. Besides the evergreen combined diphtheria/



whooping cough campaign we have proceeded with the vaccination of selected groups against poliomyelitis as and when material was made available. We have completed a pilot scheme for the vaccination of school leavers against tuberculosis and hope to start a full scale programme of B.C.G. Vaccination in this group when man-power permits. Vaccination against Asian Influenza was offered rather belatedly to selected groups but few took advantage of it.

During the year two student health visitors who had been sponsored by the department qualified and were taken on to the staff. In addition a number of health visitors were sent for special training in the early ascertainment of deafness in babies, a most necessary procedure if the child is to make the most of the new techniques available for the training of deaf children. The department also helped in a special survey of the welfare of children in hospital.

It is pleasing to note that the number of attendances at our infant welfare centres increased during the year. The uptake of welfare foods remains substantially the same as in the previous year with the exception of National Dried Milk which suffered a decline due no doubt to the sudden increase in price when the subsidy was removed.

In the face of a national shortage of dentists I am particularly glad to record that we can still provide a priority dental service for expectant mothers and young children.

The slackening in demand for overnight nursery accommodation consequent upon the discontinuation of much of the shift work for women which has been noted in recent years has prompted the discontinuance of 24-hour facilities at Ellesmere Road Nursery, which now reverts to day nursery status with accommodation for 67 children.

The family planning clinic which is held weekly in the Health Centre, Millgate, is still doing valuable work helping as it does to overcome the mental and emotional strains caused by childlessness on the one hand and too many children in too short a time on the other hand.

The Home Nursing Service, judging by the number of visits paid by the nurses, is still finding increased work and many are the letters of appreciation of devoted service by the nursing staff which find their way to the department in the course of the year. Rarely have we less than 300 cases on the books at any one time, and assuming that 25% of these could be treated as hospital out-patients, it will be seen that if the service were not available we should require a fair sized extension to the general hospital. It is probable that about 200 beds are saved by this very economical service.

The statistical section of the Ambulance Service report is worthy of close study. We now appear to have reached the peak of demand on the service, so far as mileage is concerned, but there was an increase of over 2,000 in the number of patients carried. That this increase could be absorbed without a corresponding increase in mileage indicates the extent to which careful co-ordination of journeys and intelligent use of radio control can bring about economy of operation. The Ambulance Station is in urgent need of complete re-building; the fabric of the garage walls is disintegrating and there is insufficient accommodation to give the staff a reasonable degree of comfort and amenity, especially during the long turns of night duty.

Great changes are taking place in the country in the field of mental health. The publication of the findings of the Royal Commission with its attendant publicity has led to much clearer thinking on the part of the general public, especially as regards the admission to hospital of those who must undergo active treatment. So often in the past the results of treatment have been ruined by the failure, through ignorance, of the patient's family and acquaintances to help with the lengthy period of re-habilitation usually required before such patients are re-settled at home and at work. The Royal Commission's Report envisages a great increase in the responsibility of the



Local Health Authority in the fields of both mental illness and mental defectiveness. Although much has already been anticipated by this Authority, there is no doubt that the years to come will see some considerable expansion of the Mental Health Section of the Department and an extension of training facilities for mental defectives who live at home. The provision of hostel accommodation for the mentally sick and sub-normal, who have no other suitable accommodation, has been mentioned but the exact form that the accommodation should take is by no means universally agreed. Special hostel accommodation provided under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act has the advantage of concentration of cases in one building, but the disadvantages of segregation from the rest of the community are great. Under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, where this is administered by the Health Committee, it might be possible by the skilful utilization of 'Part III Accommodation' for selected cases, to achieve a real measure of integration with the normal aged and other handicapped persons, which will help in the ultimate re-habilitation. Clearly there is much scope for experiment.

The administration of the various services under the National Assistance Act have proceeded as in previous years and of particular interest are the brief studies on homeless families and handicapped persons contributed by your case worker. The former pin-points the ever-present problem of who is to be responsible for the housing of thoroughly undesirable tenants at a time when provision of housing even for the best of would-be tenants is a near impossibility and to find an unfurnished room to let in the town is almost unheard of. The plans for the new hostel at Springfield have been completed and it is hoped that consent to the work going ahead will be obtained during 1958. Increasing use has been made of the facilities offered by the Department for short term care of the elderly and handicapped to allow their families to proceed on holiday with an easy mind or to provide a brief respite for the devoted spouse or children who are caring for a loved one at home, often a very wearing task which can easily cause a breakdown in health if help is not forthcoming from time to time.

The Chief Public Health Inspector has commented on various aspects of the work which has engaged the Department during the year and in the report will be found the details of routine work undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors. Although the newer services seem to have much of the limelight it must never be forgotten that the environmental services constitute the back-bone of the Department. The constant watch on the purity of food, milk and water, the careful scrutiny of drains, sewers and water courses, the interminable task confronting the Inspectors in the field of housing and clean air—these are the alpha and omega of public health.

In conclusion, it remains only for me to thank the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation during the year, the chief officers and technical advisers of other departments for their help from time to time and lastly the members of the Health Committee for their sustained interest and support in the many problems which are brought to them, month by month, in the course of our common task to maintain and improve the health of the inhabitants of the Borough.

J. HAWORTH HILDITCH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

HEALTH OFFICE,

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,

LIBRARY STREET,

WIGAN.

August, 1958.



*Section I*

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**Natural and  
Social Conditions  
of the Area**



## GENERAL

Area in Acres	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,082
Rateable Value of the Borough	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£786,068
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£3,314
Registrar General's estimated population on 1st July, 1957 (on which figure statistics in this report are based)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	81,670
Number of inhabited houses on the 31st December, 1957 (according to the rate books)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	24,477
Number of marriages solemnised within the Borough during 1957								745

A substantial portion of the Borough is used for agricultural purposes. These areas are sparsely populated. The average number of persons per acre varies in the fourteen wards within the Borough from 4 to 71, the overall average being 16.3. The Borough of Wigan forms a considerable part of the valley of the River Douglas. The river, which is the boundary on the north side, continues its course to the centre of the town and finally becomes the boundary at the west side. The levels on which the river enters and leaves are respectively 150 and 69 feet above sea level. Water taken from the river feeds the Leeds and Liverpool Canal which traverses the town. Due to the meagre drop in level the river water flows slowly and the bed is self-cleaning only during the winter months. The waters are badly polluted before they enter the Borough and as a result of this and subsequent pollution the river maintains little or no life—plant or animal. The maximum elevations of the town are at the extreme north 254 feet and at the south-west 260 feet. The lowest level is at the north-west boundary which is 69 feet above sea level.

Geologically, the whole of the Borough rests on the lower coal measures, or Gannister beds, which are here very superficial. This has led to outcrop mining in several parts of the district. The subsoil is mainly clay which in places has a depth of nearly 20 feet; but there is an important layer of sand covering a large part of the centre of the town and extending northwards in the direction of Standish. This sand is also found in “pockets” in other parts of the Borough. Much of the Western portion, beyond the Park, lies on a fairly extensive gravel bed.

Extensive mining operations over several generations have brought about subsidence in many parts of the Borough. In some areas this has had a disastrous effect on property and is a constant source of worry both as regards the condition of old sewers and water mains and planning sites for new buildings.

The population is essentially an industrial one, the principal industries being coal mining, iron and steel working, cotton spinning and weaving and the manufacture of clothing.

The development of the Lamberhead Green trading estate has brought new light industry to the town and a Ministry of Labour Remploi factory caters for the disabled who are able to perform useful work.

Work has continued on the large site in Kitt Green on which Messrs. H. J. Heinz and Co. Ltd. are building their food canning factory. Close liaison with the architects is being maintained to ensure that the best methods of securing a high standard of environmental hygiene for the workers are incorporated in the building. To provide the factory with an adequate water supply and to cope with the trade effluent the Corporation are involved in vast capital schemes which will also be of benefit to the Borough indirectly. Substantial extensions to the Hoscarr Sewage Works are long overdue and the water supply to the Pemberton area where much new house building is in progress is precarious in the summer months.



## *Section II*

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# **Statistics**

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1956 - 57

	1956	1957
Area (acres) ....	5,082	5,082
Population (Estimated by Registrar General) ....	82,130	81,670
Live Births : Males 676 } Females 575 } Total ....	1,284	1,251
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ....	15.63	15.32
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (Area comparability factor 0.98) ....	15.32	15.01
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate ....	0.98	0.93
Birth Rate for England and Wales ....	15.7	16.1
Illegitimate Births number 27, or .33 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of ....	1.71	2.16
Deaths : Males 519 } Females 423 } Total ....	905	942
Death Rate per 1,000 population ....	11.02	11.53
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population (Area comparability factor 1.22) ....	13.44	14.07
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate ....	1.15	1.22
Death Rate for England and Wales ....	11.7	11.5
Excess of Registered Births over Deaths ....	379	309
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births ....	—	—
Tuberculosis Death Rates :—		
Pulmonary .... 0.16 } Other than Pulmonary — } Total ....	0.13	0.16
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years ....	4	1
Death Rate (per 1,000 Births from Diarrhoea and Enteritis) ....	3.11	0.80
Infantile Rate (deaths per 1,000 births) ....	35.8	24.8
Ditto for England and Wales ....	23.8	23.0
Neo-Natal Rate ....	24.1	14.4
Perinatal Rate (includes still births plus 1st week deaths)	54	43
Still Birth Rate ....	39.64	34.0
Deaths of Infants under 1 day old ....	10	4
Ditto. 1 year (legitimate) ....	46	31
Ditto. 1 year (illegitimate) ....	—	—

## CAUSES OF DEATH WITH DEATH RATES, 1957

DISEASE						No. of Deaths		Rate
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	...	...	...	...	13	.16
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis...	...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
8.	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach ...	...	...	...	...	...	28	.34
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus ...	...	...	...	...	...	38	.47
12.	„ „ Breast ...	...	...	...	...	...	11	.13
13.	„ „ Uterus ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	.07
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	52	.64
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	.05
16.	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	.09
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	117	1.43
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	...	...	...	...	129	1.59
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	13	.16
20.	Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	173	2.12
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	...	33	.40
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	.12
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	37	.45
24.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	79	.97
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	18	.22
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	5	.06
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	3	.04
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	.12
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	.10
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	.12
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	85	1.04
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	.10
34.	All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	27	.33
35.	Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	.12
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	3	.04
							942	11.53

# REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1957

CAUSES	Sex	All Ages	0 +	1 +	5 +	15 +	25 +	45 +	65 +	75 +
ALL CAUSES ... ..	M. F.	519 423	19 12	3 1	4 3	5 2	24 18	180 99	141 121	143 167
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M. F.	12 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 1	3 —	4 —	3 —
2. Tuberculosis, Other ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	M. F.	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —
4. Diphtheria ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	M. F.	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	M. F.	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —
8. Measles ... ..	M. F.	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	M. F.	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— —
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M. F.	14 14	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	8 1	3 5	2 8
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ... ..	M. F.	36 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	18 —	14 —	3 2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	F.	11	—	—	—	—	1	8	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	F.	6	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	M. F.	27 25	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 2	12 11	8 7	5 5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	M. F.	2 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 1	— 1	— —
16. Diabetes ... ..	M. F.	1 6	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— 2	1 2	— 1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	M. F.	56 61	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 2	17 20	20 16	19 23
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M. F.	88 41	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 1	33 8	31 18	21 14



# REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1957—continued

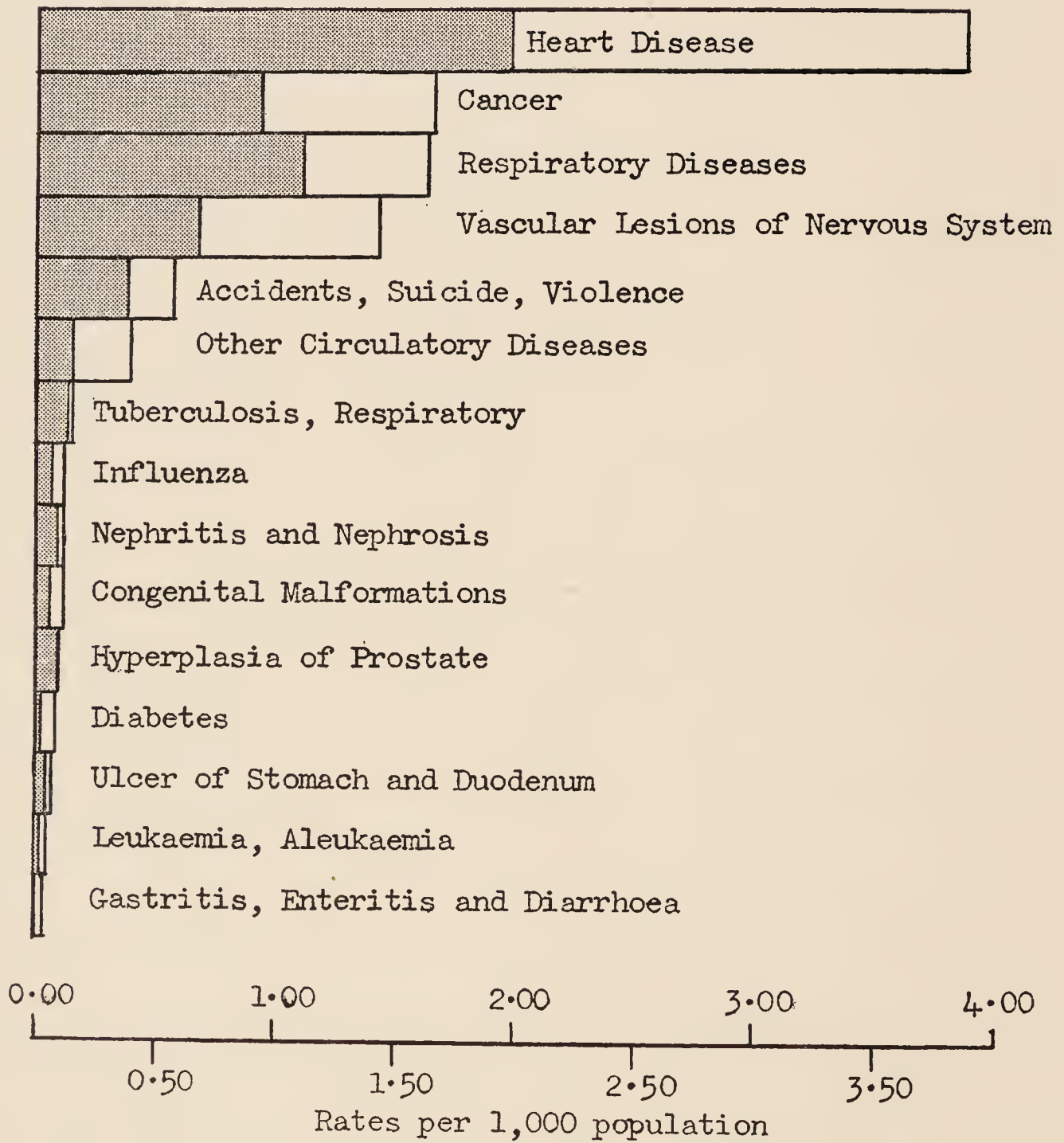
CAUSES				Sex	All Ages	0+	1+	5+	15+	25+	45+	65+	75+
ALL CAUSES ... ..				M.	519	19	3	4	5	24	180	141	143
				F.	423	12	1	3	2	18	99	121	167
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease				M.	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
				F.	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
20. Other Heart Disease ... ..				M.	68	—	—	—	—	2	16	15	35
				F.	105	—	—	—	—	5	16	31	53
21. Other Circulatory Disease ..				M.	13	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	8
				F.	20	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	12
22. Influenza ... ..				M.	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2
				F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
23. Pneumonia ... ..				M.	26	3	—	—	—	2	9	6	6
				F.	11	3	—	1	—	—	2	1	4
24. Bronchitis ... ..				M.	49	1	—	—	—	—	16	19	13
				F.	30	—	—	—	—	1	8	12	9
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..				M.	16	—	—	—	—	1	13	1	1
				F.	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum				M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
				F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea...				M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F.	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..				M.	8	—	—	—	—	1	7	—	—
				F.	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..				M.	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion..				F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ..				M.	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				F.	5	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ... ..				M.	39	9	—	—	1	2	7	9	11
				F.	46	4	—	—	—	3	8	9	22
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..				M.	8	—	—	1	3	2	1	1	—
				F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All Other Accidents ... ..				M.	15	1	—	3	—	2	5	1	3
				F.	12	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	5
35. Suicide ... ..				M.	7	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—
				F.	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War				M.	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
				F.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—



# PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATHS AT ALL AGES, 1957

SHADED PORTION = MALES

UNSHADED PORTION = FEMALES



## POPULATION OF WARDS, WITH COMPARATIVE DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Ward No.</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Death Totals</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
St. George ... ..	1	2098	33	15.73
Lindsay ... ..	2	4503	55	12.21
St. Catharine ... ..	3	5168	57	11.03
St. Patrick ... ..	4	5595	70	12.51
St. Thomas ... ..	5	2292	32	13.96
Poolstock ... ..	6	3458	32	9.25
Victoria ... ..	7	2697	35	12.98
St. Andrew ... ..	8	15735	194	12.33
Swinley ... ..	9	9843	127	12.90
All Saints ... ..	10	1917	19	9.91
West Pemberton ... ..	11	7045	58	8.23
North Pemberton ... ..	12	5993	56	9.34
Central Pemberton ... ..	13	9077	114	12.56
South Pemberton ... ..	14	6249	56	8.96
TOTALS ... ..		81670	938	11.49

Estimated population of Wards is based on current Register of Electors.  
Death Rate is based on the Registrar General's estimated population  
of 81,670.

### Crude Death Rates for Wigan During the last Ten Years

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
11.55	12.49	12.57	14.54	13.15	12.02	11.37	11.06	11.02	11.53

### INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS (Wigan residents only)

The number of inquests held during 1957 was 88, and the following  
verdicts have been recorded :—

1.	Natural Causes	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	35
2.	Accidents : Falls at home	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
	“ “ Others	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
	“ Road	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
	“ Operations, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
	“ Colliery	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
	“ Drowning	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
	“ Railway	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
	“ Burns	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
3.	Suicides : Coal Gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
	“ Poisoning	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
	“ Hanging	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
4.	Open : Coal Gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
	“ Drowning	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
	“ Fall	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
5.	War Service	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
	Murder	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2

—  
88  
—

There was no uncertified death in 1957.

## DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE

(Classified locally under the Registrar General's  
causation, age and

CAUSES OF DEATHS	Class No.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District								
		All Ages	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ... ..	1	13	—	—	—	—	3	3	4	3
Tuberculosis, Other ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	7	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	10	26	—	—	—	—	1	8	8	9
"    "    Lung, Bronchus	11	40	—	—	—	—	1	18	16	5
"    "    Breast ...	12	10	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	1
"    "    Uterus ...	13	5	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1
Other Malig. & Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	52	—	—	—	1	3	23	14	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	15	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Diabetes ... ..	16	7	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	113	—	—	—	—	2	37	34	40
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	18	115	—	—	—	1	4	39	40	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	19	12	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4
Other Heart Disease ... ..	20	180	—	—	—	—	8	34	46	92
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	21	33	—	—	—	—	1	6	6	20
Influenza ... ..	22	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3
Pneumonia ... ..	23	35	6	—	1	—	2	10	5	11
Bronchitis ... ..	24	79	1	—	—	—	1	26	31	20
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	25	20	1	—	—	—	1	14	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	26	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	27	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	28	9	—	1	—	—	—	6	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	29	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ... ..	31	10	8	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	32	91	13	—	—	1	4	14	24	35
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	33	8	—	—	1	3	2	1	1	—
All Other Accidents ... ..	34	32	1	1	3	1	2	8	7	9
Suicide ... ..	35	10	—	—	—	—	4	6	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War ...	36	5	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	—
TOTALS ... ..		938	31	4	7	8	42	279	259	308



## 52 WEEKS ENDED 28th DECEMBER, 1957

short list—grouped according to ward residence).

## DEATHS AT ALL AGES

Class. No.	St. George Ward	Lindsay Ward	St. Catharine Ward	St. Patrick Ward	St. Thomas Ward	Poolstock Ward	Victoria Ward	St. Andrew Ward	Swinley Ward	All Saints Ward	West Pem- berton Ward	North Pem- berton Ward	Central Pem- berton Ward	South Pem- berton Ward	Total Deaths
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	1	13
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
10	1	2	—	3	1	—	—	6	3	—	—	2	5	3	26
11	1	4	4	5	1	1	2	8	6	—	2	1	4	1	40
12	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	10
13	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	5
14	3	5	1	4	—	—	5	10	11	1	2	1	6	3	52
15	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
16	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	7
17	4	3	8	9	2	4	5	27	14	2	4	10	11	10	113
18	2	7	4	7	3	6	3	22	19	2	6	8	22	4	115
19	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	12
20	6	9	16	11	5	6	3	41	20	4	17	7	26	9	180
21	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	11	3	—	1	—	3	4	33
22	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	9
23	1	3	1	4	1	2	1	5	6	2	2	2	1	4	35
24	5	6	5	9	1	3	4	12	8	3	2	9	6	6	79
25	1	1	2	—	2	1	—	4	1	1	3	—	3	1	20
26	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	5
27	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
28	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	9
29	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	9
30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	3	—	—	—	10
32	5	7	6	6	4	2	3	20	14	3	2	9	5	5	91
33	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	8
34	—	1	1	3	1	1	1	5	3	1	5	2	8	—	32
35	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	3	—	10
36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	5
	33	55	57	70	32	32	35	194	127	19	58	56	114	56	938

## DEATHS FROM CERTAIN RESPIRATORY DISEASES

### Comparative Rates for the Past Five Years

#### Bronchitis

			1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths ....	....	....	92	88	91	73	79
Rates ....	....	....	1.11	1.06	1.10	0.89	0.97

#### Pneumonia

			1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths ....	....	....	37	36	34	34	37
Rates ....	....	....	0.44	0.43	0.41	0.41	0.45

#### Pulmonary Tuberculosis

			1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths ....	....	....	20	24	10	10	13
Rates ....	....	....	0.24	0.29	0.12	0.12	0.16

#### Cancer of the Lung, Bronchus

			1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths ....	....	....	29	20	25	27	38
Rates ....	....	....	0.35	0.24	0.30	0.33	0.47

#### Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs

			1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths ....	....	....	13	15	18	18	18
Rates ....	....	....	0.16	0.18	0.22	0.22	0.22

#### Total from All Respiratory Causes

			1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths ....	....	....	191	183	178	162	185
Rates ....	....	....	2.30	2.20	2.15	1.97	2.27

### CANCER

#### Deaths 1896 - 1957

	No.	Rate		No.	Rate
1896—1900	137	0.44	1926—1930	410	0.93
1901—1905	179	0.53	1931—1935	538	1.28
1906—1910	223	0.49	1936—1940	586	1.42
1911—1915	276	0.61	1941—1945	609	1.54
1916—1920	308	0.72	1946—1950	669	1.59
1921—1925	347	0.76	1951—1955	717	1.72
			1956	131	1.60
			1957	135	1.65



# C A N C E R

## Localisation of Disease, Number of Deaths and Rate per 1,000

### Population Annually for the Past Ten Years

	1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	5	.06	5	.06																
Uterus ...	9	.11	7	.08	4	.05	4	.05	12	.14	9	.11	3	.04	5	.06	6	.07	6	.07
Stomach and Duodenum ...	23	.27	32	.38	27	.32	29	.34	29	.35	34	.41	28	.34	17	.21	30	.37	28	.34
Breast ...	13	.15	16	.19	15	.18	22	.26	13	.16	20	.24	14	.17	11	.13	17	.21	11	.13
Lung, Bronchus					20	.24	19	.23	27	.32	29	.35	20	.24	25	.30	27	.33	38	.47
Other Sites ...	79	.94	87	1.03	75	.88	81	.96	74	.88	64	.77	57	.69	71	.86	51	.62	52	.64
Total Deaths from cancer ...	129	1.53	147	1.74	141	1.67	155	1.84	155	1.85	156	1.88	122	1.48	129	1.56	131	1.60	135	1.65
Total Deaths All Causes ...	975	11.55	1059	12.49	1068	12.57	1224	14.54	1100	13.15	1001	12.02	944	11.37	915	11.06	905	11.02	942	11.53

NOTE.—Deaths from Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus are included in ‘other sites’ from 1950.

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung, Bronchus are included in ‘other sites’ to 1949.

## ANALYSIS OF LIVE PREMATURE BIRTHS, 1957

Weight at Birth	Born at Home and nursed at Home			Born at Home and transferred to Hospital			Born in Hospital			Born in Maternity Home		
	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days
3lbs. 4ozs. or less (1500 gms. or less)	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	2	8	—	—	—
Over 3lbs. 4ozs. up to 4lbs. 6ozs. (1500-2000 gms.)	—	—	—	2	—	2	21	—	21	—	—	—
Over 4lbs. 6ozs. up to 4lbs. 15ozs. (2000-2250 gms.)	2	—	2	5	—	5	16	1	15	—	—	—
Over 4lbs. 15ozs. up to 5lbs. 8ozs. (2250-2500 gms.)	14	—	13	1	1	—	33	—	33	—	—	—
	16	—	15	8	1	7	80	3	77	—	—	—

## INFANTILE AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

### Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of children under one year is 31, or 24.8 per 1,000 births, and of children over one year and under five years 4, or .05 per 1,000 of the population. (In 1956 there were 46 deaths under one year, a rate of 35.8 per 1,000).

The Neo-Natal death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births on or before the 28th day of life) was 14.4. The actual numbers:—

	M.	F.	TOTAL
Legitimate ....	12	6	18
Illegitimate ....	—	—	—
	12	6	18

Of these 12, *i.e.*, 67% died during the first week of life.

The Infantile Mortality Rate at 24.8 is lower than the previous record low figure of 27.0 which was recorded in 1954.

The Infant Deaths, totalling 31, occurred as follows:—

HOME	OTHER ADDRESS	HOSPITAL, ETC.
5	—	12 Billinge Hospital
		12 R.A.E. Infirmary
		2 Whelley Hospital

Congenital Malformation was the greatest single cause of death (8); whilst pneumonia claimed 6 and prematurity 5. An analysis of live premature births is set out on page 22.

The Still-Birth Rate for the year is 34.0 compared with 39.6 in 1956. The average rates for the previous 25 years are as follows:—

1931–1935	54.2
1936–1940	48.8
1941–1945	38.4
1946–1950	36.1
1951–1955	32.7

The Peri-Natal rate, using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Infant deaths under 1 week \% stillbirths} \times 1,000}{\text{live births} + \text{stillbirths}}$$

gives a figure for the year of 43, compared with 54 in 1956.

The average rates for the previous 25 years are as follows:—

1931–1935	81.4
1936–1940	78.4
1941–1945	62.4
1946–1950	55.4
1951–1955	58.0

### Maternal Mortality

No death was recorded.

Comparative figures for the last five years:—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths ....	1	—	—	—	—
Rate ....	0.74	—	—	—	—
Births ....	1,303	1,224	1,141	1,284	1,251

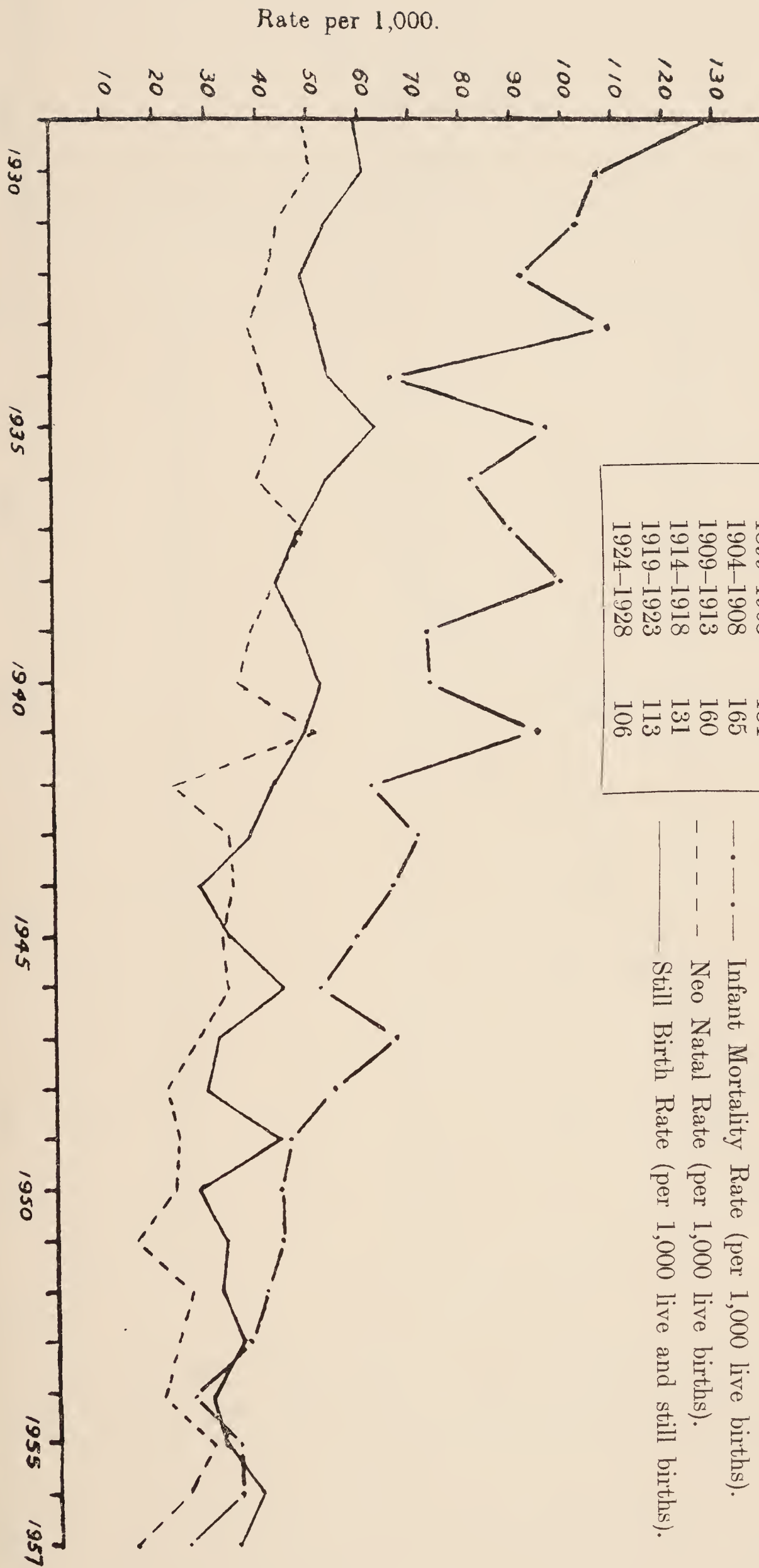
**INFANT MORTALITY, 1957**  
**Number of Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Periods**  
**Under 1 Year of Age**

Class. No.	CAUSE OF DEATH	Un- der 1 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7- 13 days	14- 20 days	21- 28 days	28 days to 2 mths	2 mths	3 mths	4 mths	5 mths	6 mths	7 mths	8 mths	9 mths	10 mths	11 mths	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
23	Atypical Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	Broncho-pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	4
	” with prematurity ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
24	Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
25	Lung Abscesses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
27	Gastro-enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
31	Congenital Malformations ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	8
32	Prematurity ...	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
	Atelectasis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Other Causes ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
34	Asphyxia following re- gurgitation of stomach contents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
		4	3	4	1	—	—	—	3	1	2	2	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	2	2	2	31

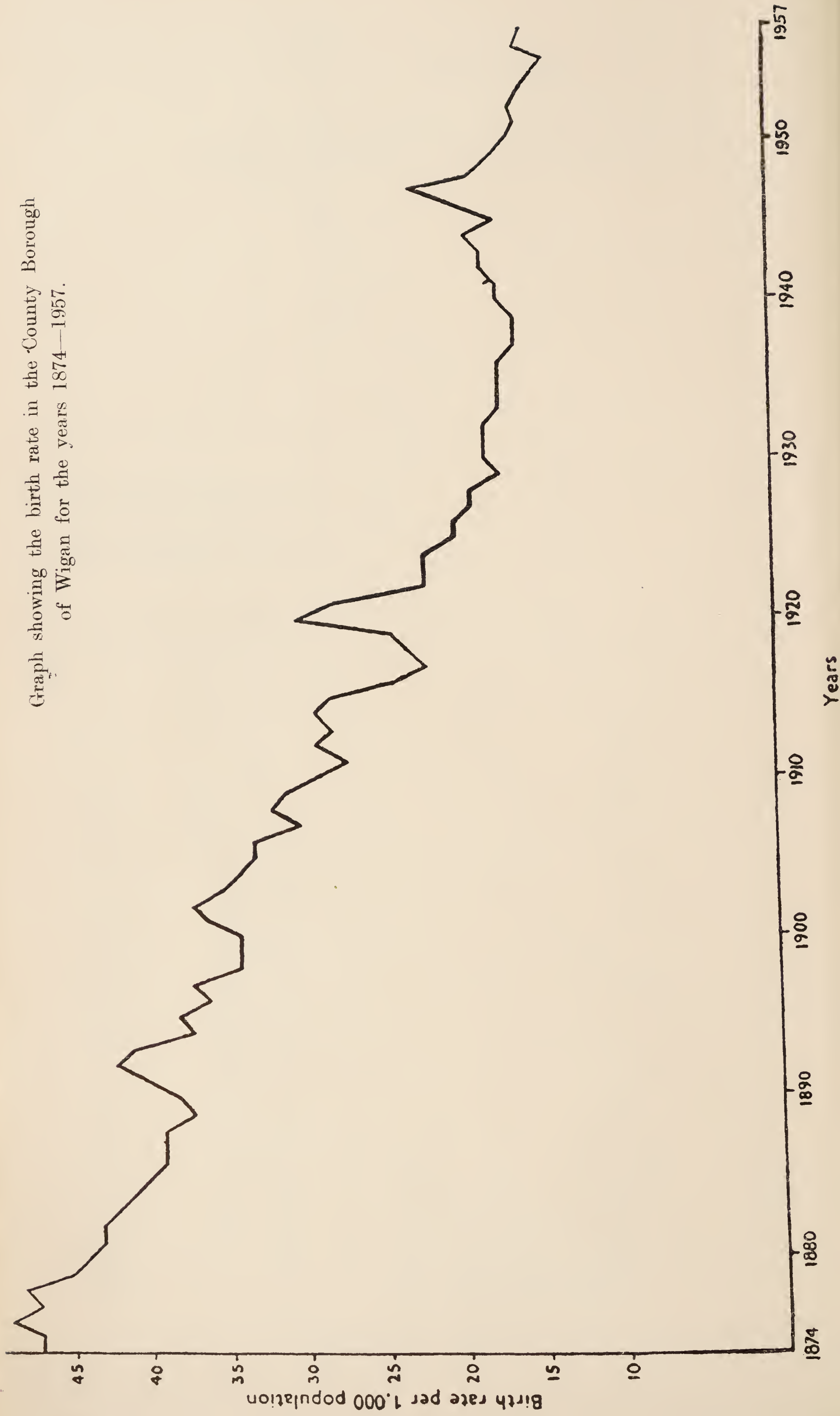


Infant Mortality Rate	
5-year periods, 1874-1928	
1874-1878	200
1879-1883	177
1884-1888	171
1889-1893	184
1894-1898	175
1899-1903	184
1904-1908	165
1909-1913	160
1914-1918	131
1919-1923	113
1924-1928	106

GRAPH showing the INFANT MORTALITY AND STILL BIRTH RATES in the County Borough of Wigan for the years 1929-1957



Graph showing the birth rate in the County Borough  
of Wigan for the years 1874—1957.



**MORBIDITY****Wigan Area**

The figures given below, compiled by the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance, indicate the number of persons applying for sickness benefit (first certificate only) week by week during the year 1957.

**Incidence of Sickness—Working Population, 1957**

Jan.	3rd	....	827	July	9th	....	413
„	15th	....	556	„	16th	....	214
„	22nd	....	549	„	23rd	....	348
„	29th	....	595	„	30th	....	451
Feb.	5th	....	612	Aug.	6th	....	368
„	12th	....	632	„	13th	....	496
„	19th	....	590	„	20th	....	417
„	26th	....	624	„	27th	....	470
Mar.	5th	....	621	Sept.	3rd	....	591
„	12th	....	644	„	10th	....	1049
„	19th	....	682	„	17th	....	1642
„	26th	....	613	„	24th	....	2452
April	2nd	....	665	Oct.	1st	....	2098
„	9th	....	658	„	8th	....	1509
„	16th	....	558	„	15th	....	1023
„	23rd	....	466	„	22nd	....	767
„	30th	....	587	„	29th	....	663
May	7th	....	514	Nov.	5th	....	580
„	14th	....	528	„	12th	....	539
„	21st	....	485	„	19th	....	643
„	28th	....	431	„	26th	....	667
June	4th	....	374	Dec.	3rd	....	645
„	11th	....	396	„	10th	....	612
„	18th	....	440	„	17th	....	511
„	25th	....	386	„	24th	....	760
July	2nd	....	422	„	31st	....	481

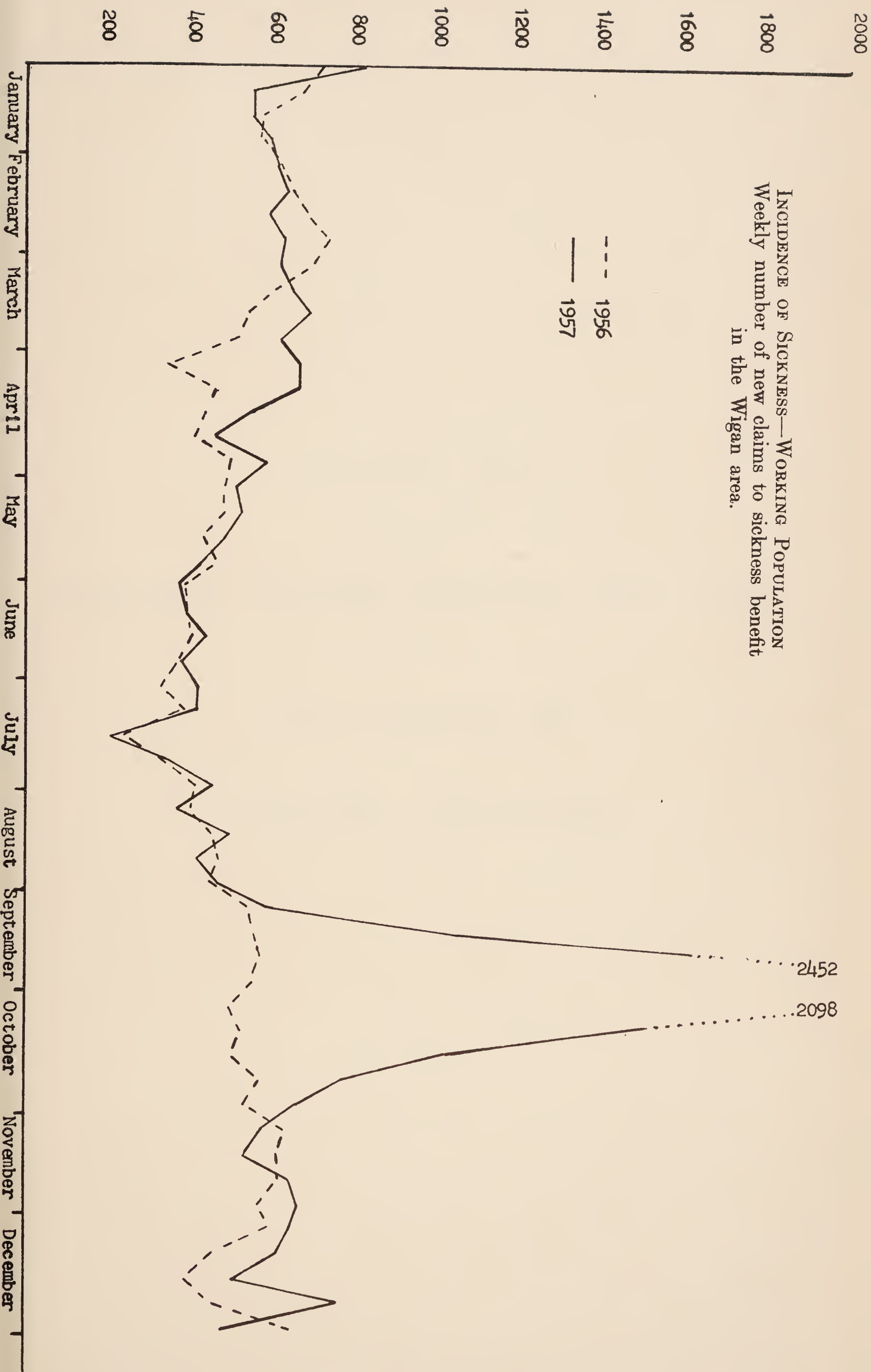
Average weekly—670.

The average weekly number of persons applying for sickness benefit increased from 510 in 1956 to 670. This is, in the main, due to the Asian flu epidemic which took its toll during the September—October period.





INCIDENCE OF SICKNESS—WORKING POPULATION  
Weekly number of new claims to sickness benefit  
in the Wigan area.





*Section III*

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**National Health Service Act, 1946**

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**Provision of  
Health Services**

## CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

The undermentioned Centres are open on the days and at the times stated :—

Centre	Days Open
WIGAN CENTRAL CLINIC Health Centre, Millgate.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 4-0 p.m. Ante-Natal Clinic : Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A Consultant attends on one Thursday of each month. Post-Natal Clinic : On two Thursdays each month at 2 p.m. Dental Clinic for expectant and nursing mothers and young children : Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Class for expectant mothers : Friday afternoons at 2 p.m.
PEMBERTON CLINIC : 15, Billinge Road.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Monday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m. Ante-Natal Clinic : Wednesday & Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. A Consultant attends on one Thursday of each month. Class for Expectant Mothers : Tuesday afternoons at 2 p.m.
SCHOLES CLINIC : St. Catharine's Mission, Platt Lane.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Friday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.
WORSLEY MESNES CLINIC : Methodist Church, Poolstock Lane.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Wednesday mornings, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
SPRINGFIELD CLINIC : St Andrew's Church House, Woodhouse Lane.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Tuesday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.
LAMBERHEAD GREEN CLINIC : Methodist Church, Fleet Street.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday mornings, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
GOOSE GREEN CLINIC : Methodist Church, Northumberland Street.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC : Wigan Central Clinic, Millgate.	Open each Monday morning. Surgeon attends twice monthly. Cases from Ince, Hindley and Standish also attend.



## Ante - Natal Care

With the object of improving the standard of ante-natal care throughout the country the Ministry of Health Circular 9/56 requested that in each area local meetings of consultant hospital obstetricians, general practitioners and Medical Officers of Health should be held. Thus those responsible for ante-natal care in all three parts of the maternity service should meet and agree upon a scheme of "adequate" ante-natal care.

During the summer of 1956 a series of meetings was therefore held at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary and the whole subject of ante-natal care was fully discussed.

A minimum standard of care for all expectant mothers was agreed upon and the importance of co-operation between the sections was emphasised and arrangements were made to facilitate exchange of records and information.

It was decided also that local authority ante-natal clinics should continue to provide facilities for taking chest x-rays and blood samples of all patients and that the general practitioners should send their patients to have these carried out. The mothercraft and relaxation classes held at the clinics were also made available to both hospital and general practitioners' cases instead of being restricted to clinic attenders as previously.

As a result of the meetings, liaison between the three sections responsible for the care of the expectant mother has been improved and the patient is assured of continuous care should it be necessary for her to transfer from one section to another.

Two 'midwives' ante-natal clinics have been inaugurated at the Authority's Centres and are held each week. There the midwives can carry out their ante-natal examinations of doctors' cases and arrange for the blood tests and chest x-rays of each patient. This arrangement has resulted in these services reaching more doctors' cases than previously.

Although as a whole the existing provisions for midwifery work fairly well in this area, I am not satisfied that they do as yet solve the problem of obtaining the full co-operation of the general practitioners with the Local Authority's services. There is no doubt that without the latter many patients may not in fact receive adequate ante-natal care.

## Ante - Natal Clinics

Four ante-natal clinic sessions are held each week—two at the Clinic, Millgate, the other two at Billinge Road, Pemberton. An Assistant Medical Officer is present at three of the sessions and a Consultant attends at each centre one session per month. At each centre also the midwives conduct a weekly session to which they invite their own booked cases for examination.

	WIGAN CENTRE		PEMBERTON	
	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic
Number of Primary Cases				
attending Clinic during year ....	325	3	162	46
Total number of attendances ....	1555	231	946	238

## **Post - Natal Clinics**

For post-natal care two sessions per month are held at one centre, each alternate session being attended by a consultant. Domiciliary cases where no doctor was engaged and cases delivered in hospital may attend for examination. 162 new cases were examined during the year and there were 25 return cases, a total of 187.

## **Care of Expectant Mothers**

Two mothercraft training and exercise classes for expectant primiparae are held, one at the Central Clinic, the other at Billinge Road Clinic, each week. They are conducted by the Health Visitors and the Supervisor of Midwives. 62 classes were held during the year 1957 and 884 attendances were made by mothers.

Routine chest x-ray of expectant mothers and the taking of blood samples for testing for the rhesus factor, the Wasserman reaction and the haemoglobin content are all part of the routine ante-natal care undertaken at Clinics. Iron therapy in the form of Fersolate tablets is available and a supply of welfare orange juice, vitamins and welfare foods may also be obtained. Maternity outfits are available for domestic confinements and are under the charge of the non-medical supervisor of midwives. The midwife engaged is responsible for ensuring that each of her patients is provided with an outfit.

## **Care of Unmarried Mothers**

There is one residential home in Wigan for expectant and nursing unmarried mothers. It is under the control of the Liverpool Diocesan Church Council but is not restricted to Church of England members and the local authority pay a substantial amount yearly towards its maintenance. The local health authority clinics are available to the girls and advantage is taken of these facilities. A Health Visitor visits the Home regularly which ensures liaison with the staff at the Home.

## Child Welfare Centres

The local authority has provided seven child welfare centres, at which one clinic is held each week. Each is in the charge of a Health Visitor and an Assistant Medical Officer attends at each session. During the year attendances were as follows :—

CLINIC	Children			Total	Primary Cases	Cases examined by medical attendant	Mothers Attend'g
	under 1 year	over 1 and under 2	2 and under 5				
Central ... ..	2454	407	328	3189	267	1008	3022
Scholes ... ..	1826	371	276	2473	193	807	2357
Pemberton ... ..	1645	303	257	2205	182	752	2043
Worsley Mesnes	539	126	127	792	61	368	721
Springfield ... ..	1537	309	274	2120	163	613	1989
Fleet Street ... ..	1085	288	277	1650	83	422	1516
Goose Green ... ..	730	317	284	1331	79	354	1218
	9816	2121	1823	13760	1028	4324	12866

Comparative attendances for the last 5 years :

INFANTS :	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Total Attendances ....	12748	10929	10687	12424	13760
Primary Attendances....	1117	1071	1021	1059	1028

EXPECTANT MOTHERS :

Central :

Weekly Clinic	1679	1412	1426	1662	1555
Special Clinic	146	144	134	178	231

PEMBERTON :

Weekly Clinic	870	743	687	744	946
Special Clinic	428	398	261	303	238

No consultant attends at the child welfare centres but cases are referred from them to the Paediatrician at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. A Health Visitor attends the Paediatric Clinic at the Infirmary weekly as liaison officer and adviser on the social aspects of the cases. Cases are also referred to the Infirmary for orthoptic treatment.

Orthopaedic treatment and speech therapy are available at the local authority's clinic in Millgate.



## Distribution of Welfare Foods

A Welfare Foods Shop is situated in the Municipal Buildings and from it welfare foods are distributed.

The quantity of Welfare Foods distributed during the year is shown below :

National Dried Milk	....	....	....	50,076 tins.
Orange Juice	....	....	....	77,719 bottles.
Cod Liver Oil	....	....	....	10,773 bottles.
Vitamin A and D tablets	....	....	....	6,184 packets.

In addition the following other commodities are sold at the Welfare Food Shop and the various Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics :

Proprietary Dried Milks	....	....	....	12,289
Vitamin Supplements	....	....	....	5,021
Rose Hip Syrup	....	....	....	2,661
Cereals	....	....	....	1,238
Malt Extract	....	....	....	1,836

## Dental Care and Treatment

I am indebted to the Principal School Dental Officer for the following summary of the dental work carried out during the year for the Maternity and Child Welfare Section :—

Arrangements for the dental examination and treatment of children and expectant mothers under the Priority Service have been continued as in previous years.

Two sessions each week were allocated for this work and mothers at the Ante-Natal Clinic were urged to attend for a dental inspection. In some cases there was still reluctance to accept dental treatment but in many instances there was a favourable response.

In addition to the inspections carried out at The Elms and Ellesmere Road nurseries, children of pre-school age are referred for dental treatment by the Assistant Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

### Analysis of Priority Dental Care.:

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	267	126	91	80
Children under five ... ..	152	53	40	37



## Forms of Dental Treatment provided :—

	Scalings and Gum Treatmt	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treat- ment	Crowns or Inlays	Extrac- tions	General Anaes- thetics	Dentures provided		Radio graphs
							FullUp. or Lr.	Part. Up. or Lr.	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	33	61	—	—	31	—	6	—	—
Children under Five ...	13	16	4	—	25	—	—	—	—

In addition to the above, 220 children under five years of age were inspected under the School Dental Service.

**NURSERY****Discontinuation of 24 - Hour Nursery**

The slackening in demand for 24-hour accommodation mentioned in last year's report continued and as a measure of economy it was felt advisable to recommend to the Health Committee that the establishment should be conducted as a day nursery. This was agreed and the change was made on the 1st January, 1957. There is accommodation for 67 children and the nursery is open Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 7. pm. and on Saturday until noon.

It is provided primarily for children of mothers who go out to work and also for children whose parents are temporarily unable to care for them. Provision for social cases requiring residential accommodation is made at The Elms Nursery, which is under the control of the Children's Committee.

The average attendances during the year were :

Children under 2 years of age	....	....	....	....	15
Children between 2 and 5 years	....	....	....	....	42
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	57

**Nursery and Child Minders' Regulations Act, 1948**

There are no industrial nurseries in the area but one person is registered as a child minder. Regular visits have been paid by the Department to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with.

**FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC**

The Authority is sympathetic towards the dissemination of information regarding infertility and the spacing of families, and grants the use of the premises in Millgate to the Wigan Branch of the Family Planning Association. An evening session is held once each week and is well attended, the average attendance per session being 9 new cases and nearly 40 return cases. For lay staff the clinic relies on voluntary workers from the association. In addition specially trained women doctors and nurses are employed at each session. The service, although not in any way advertised in the public press is still increasing in popularity. There were 437 new patients during the year. There is no doubt that the clinic is contributing greatly to the sum of social medicine undertaken by the authority. The professional and voluntary workers deserve the highest praise for their efforts.

## DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

The establishment of the service is now one non-medical Supervisor and 11 municipal midwives.

The total number of cases attended by them during the year was 579, compared with 634 in 1956. The midwives acted as maternity nurses in 28 cases. The average number of cases attended by each was 53. Although the doctor was engaged in 85% of the cases he was present at the delivery of only 5% of the cases engaged.

Booking for confinement in hospital is restricted to certain categories of patients, *i.e.*, where there is some obstetrical abnormality, for primiparae who seek admission, for cases where there is some associated medical condition and for those whose home conditions are unsuitable. The supervisor of midwives visits the homes of all who apply on social grounds and there is good co-operation in this direction between the hospital, the general practitioners and the clinics.

No fewer than 45.5% of the births in Wigan took place on the district.

The midwives are on duty by rota at the ante-natal clinics. This helps to keep them up-to-date in modern methods and also gives them an opportunity of having their clinical findings confirmed.

At the ante-natal clinics 318 samples of blood were taken for Wasserman reaction and 411 for the Rhesus factor and 471 for haemoglobin estimation.

### Medical Aid

By the rules of the Central Midwives Board, midwives are required to send for medical aid under conditions and for reasons which are specified. Medical aid was summoned in 230 cases—in 185 cases for the mother alone, in 37 cases for the child alone, and in 8 cases for both mother and child. The general practitioner had been engaged in 155 of these cases.

### Analgesia and Anaesthesia

Both Gas and Air Analgesia and Trilene Analgesia are provided by the Department and all the municipal midwives are qualified to administer them.

The outfits are available at the Clinic and they are transported to and from the homes of the patients by the midwife if she has a car, or by the Ambulance Service.

The Service is popular with the mothers. During the year Gas and Air was administered in 371 cases and in 38 cases Trilene was used.

All the midwives are instructed in the use of Pethidine and it was administered in 314 cases during 1957.

The midwives advise all their patients on the advantages of having analgesia unless it is contra-indicated on medical grounds.

One midwife attended a refresher course during the year.

The Authority provides district training for pupil midwives taking Part II of the C.M.B. Course. Five students received training during the year.



## **Transport of Midwives**

" Essential User " car allowances are made to six midwives who use their own motor cars whilst on approved duties. They travelled an aggregate of 9,719 miles in the year. A petrol allowance is paid to one midwife who uses a motor scooter.

Midwives without motor transport are allowed to use the Corporation's bus service free of charge when on duty.

## **Maternity Homes**

The Christopher Home, administered by the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee, is the only Nursing or Maternity Home within the Borough. Six beds are available for maternity cases and during the year there were 39 Wigan births in the Home.

## **Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

Three cases have been notified during the last year.

## **Emergency Obstetrical Unit**

By arrangement with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee a mobile Obstetrical Unit based on Billinge Hospital is available for cases of obstetrical emergency occurring within the Borough. The unit, composed of an obstetrician and an experienced hospital nurse, along with equipment for blood transfusion, is transported to the home by the Ambulance Service. Three calls were made upon this service during the year.

## **Care of Premature Infants**

The number of premature infants (*i.e.*, weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth) notified during the year was 104 ; of these 24 were born at home and 80 in hospital.

The early care of the premature infants born at home is undertaken by the Supervisor and two midwives, who have shown special aptitude for this work.

The arrangement is that on receiving information of the birth the " premature baby " midwife takes over the case entirely and attends both mother and baby. Visits are paid daily or more often if necessary, special attention being given to the feeding and handling of the baby. Special equipment in the form of draught-proof cots with bedding and hot water bottles, an oxygen resuscitator and baby clothing are provided.

Daily record charts are made out for each infant and these are made available to the doctor attending the cases.

The intensive visiting is continued during the first month or until such time as baby has attained normal standards. By these means the mother is given every opportunity of learning how to handle and tend the infant.

During the year 43 premature babies received this concentrated attention. The results are very good and fully justify the time devoted to them.

There is a premature baby unit at Billinge Hospital under the control of the Consultant Paediatrician. Close liaison is maintained with the Department, especially when babies are about to be discharged to home and specialised nursing is continued where necessary.

## **Retrolental Fibroplasia**

No cases were reported during 1957.

## HEALTH VISITING

Summary of visits during the year 1957 :—

No. of primary visits to births	....	....	....	....	....	....	1295
„ visits to infants under one year	....	....	....	....	....	....	6745
„ „ infants over one year and under two years	....	....	....	....	....	....	3526
„ „ infants over two and under three years	....	....	....	....	....	....	2850
„ „ infants over three and under four years	....	....	....	....	....	....	2519
„ „ infants over four and under five years	....	....	....	....	....	....	2850
„ „ expectant mothers	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
„ „ cases of infectious disease	....	....	....	....	....	....	364
„ „ <i>re</i> deaths under one year	....	....	....	....	....	....	28
„ „ abortions	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
„ „ still births	....	....	....	....	....	....	42
„ „ aged persons	....	....	....	....	....	....	326
Other visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	670
No. of visits—no reply	....	....	....	....	....	....	1471

Only 7 Health Visitors were on the staff until July, when two students whose training the Committee had sponsored obtained the Health Visitors' Certificate and were appointed. As a result more visiting in the homes has been accomplished, but with the full complement of 10 Health Visitors more concentrated contact with the homes of problem families would be possible.

One Health Visitor attended a post-graduate refresher course.

During the year, two student Health Visitors from the Bolton Training School have received practical training in the Department.

A Health Visitor continues to attend the Out-Patient Paediatric Clinic held each week at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. This has proved to be a valuable link between the home and the hospital as the Department is able to advise the specialist on the social and environmental aspects of cases. Also the Health Visitor, having first-hand knowledge of the treatment recommended, can help the mother to carry it out in the home. A copy of the clinical notes sent to the general practitioner is available to the assistant medical officer in charge of the clinic at which the child attends.

Two Clinic Nurses, one a trained midwife and one an enrolled assistant nurse, give part-time help at the Infant Clinics. They release the Health Visitors from minor routine duties so that their specialised knowledge can be used to the best advantage.

## THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948

On the 1st September, 1954, the Children's Officer and the Children's Department were placed under the general supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

Medical and dental examination of children in the family group homes or who are to be boarded out is undertaken by the Department and weekly visits are paid by an Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the residential nursery at 'The Elms.' Health Visitors undertake visits to the homes of foster-mothers and prospective adopters when required.



## **CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES**

The local authority implemented the recommendations contained in circular 78/50 and designated the Medical Officer of Health as the officer responsible for liaison and co-ordination in matters affecting children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

The Council also appointed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Children's Education, Estates and Health Committees to determine questions of a special nature on the subject of the circular at elected representative level.

During the year it has not been found necessary to call this Committee but many cases have been dealt with at officer level with encouraging results.

## **PREVENTION OF BREAK - UP OF FAMILIES**

Ministry of Health Circular 27/54 led to a review of those local authority services and personnel who are in a position to see the first signs of family breakdown and who may be able to help. The situation is simplified by the unified control of Health, Welfare and Children's Services. Thus there is complete liaison within the Department between the Children's Officer and her case workers, the Welfare Services Section and its officers in charge of temporary accommodation as mentioned above, the Assistant Medical Officers of Health, Health Visitors, School Nurses and the Mental Health Services.

The Day Nursery has also played a part when parents have been unable easily to care for the children for brief periods.

The Home Help Service is involved in this to only a minor degree due to the high incidence of cost which is liable to fall upon the family.

A close liaison is maintained with all local voluntary agencies and officials of government departments who come into contact with cases of child neglect.

## **HOME NURSING**

The Home Nursing Service has continued to function from the Nurses' Home, New Market Street. Difficulty continues to be experienced in obtaining nurses who are willing to be resident in the home. At present only the Superintendent and her deputy are in residence. The opportunity has been taken to offer accommodation in the building to other members of the Health Department staff, and this has helped to keep the costs of running the home within reasonable limits. In the interests of further economy the possibility of running the service on a wholly non-resident basis from the Health Department has been considered. The building in New Market Street would then be converted into flats for the use of nursing and other staff of the Department. The need to reduce capital costs during the credit squeeze led to the deletion of this project from the capital expenditure programme.

The question "How many hospital beds has the Home Nursing Service saved?" has been posed and indeed this is a most difficult query to answer except when one speaks in general terms.

There is no doubt that the majority of patients on our books at any one time are in need of skilled nursing attention, and would but for the service undoubtedly be receiving hospital care either as in-patients or out-patients. In addition to patients who are wholly nursed at home, it has been observed that many patients, especially medical ones, are discharged early from hospital in the knowledge that their care can continue satisfactorily at home.

A very high standard of home care is available, the nurses visiting if necessary as many as three times daily between the hours of 8-30 a.m. and 6 p.m. In addition, late visits up to 11 p.m. are arranged where necessary to make very ill patients comfortable for the night, and to give sedatives when prescribed by the general practitioner. The general practitioners and home nurses co-operate very successfully in treating and nursing patients in their own homes. This, combined with the loan of nursing equipment, laundry service and home help service undoubtedly relieve pressure on hospital beds.

The number of injections required to be given for many various conditions has again increased and takes up a very considerable part of the nurses' time. The total number for the year was 33,345 and these entailed many special visits.

## Transport

The three Ford Popular cars have given satisfactory service and have been maintained on a similar schedule as that for the Ambulance fleet.

DETAILS OF FUEL CONSUMPTION AND MILEAGE RUN ARE AS FOLLOWS :—

Registered No.	Date of Delivery	Mileage		TOTAL	Fuel Consumption		Average	
		1956	1957		Petrol	Oil	M.P.G.	M.P.P.
Ford Popular								
CEK 644	1-4-56	5,628	8,129	13,757	305	11	26.6	739.0
CEK 682	11-4-56	5,086	7,359	12,445	300	7	24.5	1051.2
CEK 820	17-4-56	5,208	8,125	13,333	328	25	24.7	325.0

The Ambulance service provided drivers for Home Nursing Service cars on 165 occasions for conveying District Nurses.

This represents a total of 206 hours 8 minutes.

Bicycles are provided and an allowance of 5/- per week is made towards maintenance if a nurse provides her own autocycle.

The establishment remains as in previous years—one Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent and eleven nurses, two of whom are male nurses.

The following is a record of work done during 1957 :—

No of cases on the books on 1st January, 1957	....	....	....	355
No. of new cases during 1957	....	....	....	1860
No. of visits paid by the nurses	....	....	....	54689
No of cases ceased to be visited :—				
Now convalescent	....	....	....	620
Removed to hospital	....	....	....	233
Deaths	....	....	....	285
Other reasons	....	....	....	684
				1822
No. of cases remaining on the books on the 31st December, 1957	....			393

A classification of cases attended during 1957 will be found on pages 39-41.

## Refresher Courses

One nurse is sent each year to a Refresher Course organised by the Queen's Institute of District Nurses. No arrangements exist for the local training of district nurses.



## Classification of Cases

### Table 1 — All Ages

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Tuberculosis, other forms	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Diseases due to helminths	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Malignant Neoplasms	....	....	....	....	....	....	106
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	....	....	....	....	....	....	35
Diabetes mellitus	....	....	....	....	....	....	41
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	....	....	....	....	....	....	127
Conjunctivitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Blepharitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Cataract	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Glaucoma	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Acute otitis media	....	....	....	....	....	....	34
Mastoiditis	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Rheumatic Fever	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	....	220
Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	....	....	....	....	262
Acut pharyngitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Tonsillitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	40
Laryngectomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Tracheotomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	....	40
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	....	62
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	215
Quinsy	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Empyema	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
All other respiratory diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	78
Appendicitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Hernia of Abdominal Cavity	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Laparotomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Enteritis	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Gastrectomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Cholecystectomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Diseases of gall bladder and biliary ducts	....	....	....	....	....	....	24
Other diseases of digestive system	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Diseases of genital organs	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Prostatectomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Supra-pubic drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cystotomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Diseases of uterus	....	....	....	....	....	....	63
Hysterectomy	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Complications of pregnancy	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Complications of puerperium (hyperpyrexia)	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Post caesarian (from 7th day)	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Post natal	....	....	....	....	....	....	5





**Table II — Aged 65 Years and Over**

	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	2	—	2	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other forms .....	—	2	2	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasms .....	14	19	33	8	15	23
Benign and unspecified neoplasms .....	4	2	6	5	10	15
Diabetes Mellitus .....	2	21	23	8	25	33
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system .....	22	38	60	20	32	52
Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease .....	68	51	119	26	25	51
Other diseases of circulatory system .....	24	69	93	17	35	52
Diseases of digestive system .....	5	1	6	5	6	10
Influenza .....	5	7	12	3	7	10
Gastric Influenza .....	1	—	1	1	—	1
Pneumonia .....	2	5	7	11	15	26
Bronchitis .....	30	42	72	36	34	70
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	4	6	10	18	13	31
Rheumatism .....	3	4	7	12	18	30
Arthritis .....	4	12	16	3	18	21
Varicose ulcers .....	2	15	17	5	15	20
Phlebitis .....	—	1	1	1	2	3
General rashes on body .....	1	—	1	4	2	6
Dermatitis .....	—	1	1	2	1	3
Eczema .....	1	1	2	1	—	1
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scabies .....	—	2	2	3	5	8
Cellulitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses, Boils, Carbuncles .....	4	5	9	6	15	21
Bedsore .....	1	—	1	5	2	7
Senility, Constipation, Debility						
Neurasthenia .....	30	40	70	27	38	65
Injuries due to falls .....	1	5	6	3	5	8
Fractures .....	2	7	9	3	9	12
Burns .....	—	—	—	2	—	2
Scalds .....	—	4	4	—	1	1
Supra-pubic drainage .....	—	—	1	—	—	—
Prostatectomy .....	4	—	4	3	—	3
Cystotomy .....	—	—	1	3	—	3
Gastrectomy .....	—	1	1	1	2	3
Hysterectomy .....	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cholecystectomy .....	—	1	1	2	2	4
Diseases of the uterus .....	—	31	31	—	31	31
Preparation for x-ray .....	—	25	25	10	5	15
Excision of eye .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cataract .....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Conjunctivitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hemiotomy .....	—	2	2	—	—	—
Nephrectomy .....	—	1	1	—	—	—
Laparotomy .....	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tracheotomy .....	1	—	1	—	—	—



## NURSING EQUIPMENT

The following goods are available on loan at a nominal charge :—

Air beds	Bed tables
Air rings	Rubber sheets
Backrests	Urinals
Bed cradles	Wheelchairs
Bed pans	Crutches

The service is in constant demand and is running smoothly.

### Bedding Loan Service

A service to loan certain articles of bedding for the use of bedfast incontinent persons was inaugurated on the 7th January, 1957.

The patient is supplied with clean bedding—sheets, drawsheets, pillow cases, pyjama jackets—as required.

The soiled articles are collected for laundering and replaced by clean bedding at regular intervals.

A charge of 6d. per week is made for the service.

No. of cases on 7th January	....	....	....	....	....	5
No. of new cases during the year	....	....	....	....	....	25
No. of cases ceased	....	....	....	....	....	23
No. of cases on 31st December,	....	....	....	....	....	7

## VACCINATION

### Small Pox

The following vaccinations were carried out during 1957 :—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 yrs. inclusive	5-14 yrs. inclusive	Over 15 yrs.	TOTAL
Primary ....	334	15	18	17	41	425
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	2	35	37
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	334	15	18	19	76	462
	==	==	==	==	==	==

334 children under the age of one year were vaccinated during the year. Comparing this figure with the number of births during the same period, it will be seen that only 27% of the infants were vaccinated.

### Poliomyelitis

Following upon the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 2/56 the Council approved in principal the scheme for the vaccination of children against poliomyelitis.

During the year 2,149 children were vaccinated.

At 31st December, 1957, 470 children had received 1 injection only and 478 were still awaiting vaccination.

### Influenza

The Ministry of Health arranged to supply influenza vaccine to general practitioners, nurses, midwives, ambulance staff and others who are specially exposed to infection and on whom an epidemic places an exceptionally heavy burden. 6 general practitioners and 36 members of the Health Department staff were vaccinated.



## IMMUNISATION

Preventive inoculation against Diphtheria has been offered in the Borough since December, 1936, for children of pre-school and school age. The use of a combined vaccine giving protection against both diphtheria and whooping cough was introduced in the clinics in July, 1954.

Although the local health authority expend time and money on joining in with the national advertising campaigns, the Health Visitor with her personal approach is the spearhead of the drive for a high level of primary protection against Diphtheria, while the school nurse is in a unique position to coax the reluctant parent of the primary school child to agree to the child receiving a booster dose of prophylactic.

Inoculation carried out during 1957 :—

### Diphtheria

	M. & C.W. Clinic	School Clinic	Private Doctors	TOTAL
Primary ....	9	406	4	419
Re-inoculation ....	1	379	1	381
	10	785	5	800

### Combined Diphtheria and Pertussis

Primary ....	470	—	187	657
Re-inoculation ....	28	—	3	31
	498	—	190	688

### Pertussis

Primary ....	6	—	1	7
	Under 1 year.	1-4 years.	5-14 years.	TOTAL.
Estimated present child population immunised against Diphtheria	43%	51%	48%	49%
Estimated present child population immunised against Pertussis ....	43%	40%	3%	15%

An overall percentage of 49% immunised against Diphtheria cannot be regarded as adequate and we must strive for a figure of at least 80%. Parental apathy is our greatest enemy. Young parents have never seen cases of diphtheria and so the wholesome fear which it engendered in the time of the greatest epidemic incidence has disappeared. On the other hand our success with the Pertussis antigen in the lower age groups has, I am sure, helped to bring about the gradual disappearance of whooping cough which we have noticed in the Borough in recent years.



## AMBULANCE SERVICE

### Introduction

The opening remarks to my report for 1956 invite direct comparison between that year and the period now under review. In fact, these two years are the only periods where this has been possible, due to the changing conditions affecting the operation of the service.

The mileage run during the year totals 119,972 and the patients carried number 35,622 as compared with 120,283 and 33,420 respectively in 1956, a reduction of 311 miles and an increase of 2,202 patients carried. Of this total 1,713 patients fall in the category of "other cases" which covers normal admissions, discharges and clinic cases and would tend to emphasise the increasing use of out-patient facilities for ambulant cases. The only other major increase occurs in the case of carriage of Mentally Handicapped Children which indicates an increase of 828 over the previous year.

It is pleasing to report that the service is able to contain the increase shown and this is undeniably the result of the use of radio-telephone equipment and effective control procedure, which together have increased the average number of patients carried per mile and decreased the average mileage per patient as follows :—

Year.	Average No. of patients carried per mile.	Average mileage per patient.
1956	0.27	3.6
1957	0.28	3.4

## **Ambulance Station**

During 1957 the Health Committee considered the inadequate domestic and administrative accommodation available on the ambulance station and took into account the conditions of the existing garages. It was decided to ask the Borough Engineer to submit draft plans for the extension of existing administrative and domestic accommodation and also for the complete rebuilding of the ambulance station. This has now been done and awaits presentation to the Committee.

Interior decorating of the administrative block and two garages has been completed and all other repairs as necessary have been carried out.

## **Personnel**

The establishment of the service at the 31st December, 1957 was as follows :—

- 1 Superintendent
- 1 Assistant Superintendent
- 1 Clerk /Storekeeper
- 4 Control/Assistants
- 23 Driver/Attendants
- 1 Handyman

## **Civil Defence**

The Ambulance and Casualty Collecting Section continues to be well attended and to maintain interest at a high level a branch of the Casualties Union has been formed.

After a course of instruction 13 out of 15 candidates passed the examination and are now actively engaged appearing in competitions and helping each other with first aid training.

## Maintenance of Vehicles

All vehicles have been serviced and maintained as and when required in accordance with the maintenance programme.

Ambulance No. 5, JP 7252 has been disposed of during the year and has been replaced with a Bedford/Lomas Ambulance, registered No. DEK 828.

In view of the small number of infectious cases being carried it is felt that consideration should be given to the future modification of Ambulance No. 8 JP 8800 to enable it to be used for general purposes.

### AGE OF VEHICLES IN YEARS

One to two years	Two to three years	Three to four years	Four to five years	Five to six years	Six to seven years	Seven to eight years	Eight to nine years	Nine to ten years	Ten years & over
1	1	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	—

## Radio - Telecommunications

All equipment installed has given satisfactory service during the year under review. A drop in the mains voltage has interfered with the equipment on several occasions but an assurance by the North Western Electricity Board has been given that this should not occur again.

Under the terms of maintenance agreements the main and all mobile stations were serviced three times and the mast on two occasions.

In addition the main station was repaired eight times and repairs were carried out on mobile stations on twenty-three occasions.

In accordance with the Second Report of the Mobile Radio Committee all radio-telephone equipment will have to be replaced by January, 1962 in order to conform to the specification of 50 K/C band width which may again be reduced to 25 K/C. The equipment in use will be nine years old by then and will be ready for replacement.

### TOTAL MILEAGE RUN BY EACH VEHICLE.

Registered No.	Year of Purchase	Make	Type	Total Mileage Run		
				1956	1957	TOTAL
AEK 432	1953	Bedford	Dual Pur.	61,774	15,622	77,396
JP 9609	1952	Bedford	Ambulance	87,168	18,685	105,853
AJP 500	1954	Daimler	Ambulance	33,607	10,014	43,621
JP 8560	1950	Bedford	Ambulance	128,737	15,840	144,577
JP 7252	1948	Austin	Ambulance	99,562	3,715	103,367
DEK 828	1957	Bedford	Ambulance	...	1,219	1,219
BJP 947	1955	Bedford	Ambulance	16,195	11,348	28,543
JP 8879	1951	Bedford	Ambulance	105,675	16,183	121,858
JP 8800	1950	Bedford	Ambulance	51,074	7,917	58,991
AEK 319	1953	Austin	Car	100,664	19,429	120,093



## Summary of Work Undertaken During the Year 1957

CLASSIFICATION.	MILES	JOURNEYS	PATIENTS
SECTION 27 PATIENTS :			
Street Accidents (including all road users) ... ..	630	—	172
Other Street Accidents ... ..	298	—	81
Works Accidents ... ..	285	—	77
Home Accidents ... ..	531	—	121
Recreation Accidents ... ..	413	—	101
Unclassified Injuries ... ..	432	—	117
Street Illnesses ... ..	519	—	149
Home Illnesses ... ..	275	—	61
Works Illnesses ... ..	78	—	22
Other Illnesses ... ..	93	—	25
Maternity ... ..	6,008	—	563
Authorised Officers ... ..	2,143	—	70
Infectious ... ..	1,071	—	199
Deceased ... ..	164	—	30
Admissions, Discharges, Transfers & Clinic Cases ...	76,947	—	18,476
Service and Fruitless ... ..	1,405	333	—
Sunnyside, Southport ... ..	12,443	—	1,284
SECTION 27 PATIENTS—RECOVERABLE :			
Lancashire County Council ... ..	620	7	67
Other Authorities ... ..	167	—	12
National Coal Board ... ..	97	—	16
Sunnyside, Southport ... ..	507	—	27
OTHER RE-CHARGEABLE WORK :			
Welfare Services ... ..	2,357	—	382
Mentally Defective Children ... ..	11,016	—	13,568
Midwives and Gas and Air Analgesia ... ..	1,386	347	—
District Nurses ... ..	—	—	—
Children's Department ... ..	87	—	2
TOTALS ... ..	119,972	687	35,622

## Petrol and Oil Consumption

### PETROL RECEIPTS

Received from Wigan Corporation Transport Department	....	9,073 galls.
Received from Other Authorities	.... ....	15 galls.
TOTAL	.... ....	9,088 galls.

Vehicle	Make	Reg. No.	Mileage	CONSUMPTION		AVERAGE	
				Petrol Galls.	Oil Pints	M.P.G.	M.P.P.
1	Bedford	AEK 432	15,622	1,168	36	13.3	434.0
2	Bedford	JP 9609	18,685	1,280	88	14.6	212.3
3	Daimler	AJP 500	10,014	1,087	112	9.2	89.5
4	Bedford	JP 8560	15,840	1,155	115	13.3	137.7
5	Austin Bedford	JP 7252	3,715	378	41	9.8	90.6
		DEK828	1,219	114	6	10.7	203.1
6	Bedford	BJP 947	11,348	995	24	11.4	472.9
7	Bedford	JP 8879	16,183	1,145	113	15.0	143.2
8	Bedford	JP 8800	7,917	635	63	12.4	125.6
Car	Austin	AEK 319	19,429	1,131	121	17.1	160.5
TOTALS :			119,972	9,088	719	13.2	168.2

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER - CARE

### Health Education

Each month 1,150 copies of the journal " Better Health " are distributed in the district.

Classes for mothers are held each week at the Central Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Propaganda regarding Diphtheria immunisation has been carried out in conjunction with the National Campaign.

Efforts are being maintained to bring to the notice of the public, and especially to food handlers, the need for cleanliness and care in the preparation of food.

Measures for the dissemination of information to the public are being developed. They include the publication of literature, display of posters, etc., and opportunities are taken to give lectures on various health subjects from time to time. Lack of suitably qualified personnel is the limiting factor at the present time.

A subscription is paid each year by the Borough Council to the Central Council for Health Education. This enables us to receive from the Central Council much valuable help and information as to the best methods of approaching the public.

### Smoking and Lung Cancer

Following the receipt of Circular 7/57 dated 27th June, 1957, propaganda material and a personal letter from the Medical Officer of Health were circulated to all members of the Health Committee and the problems involved in the dissemination of information to the public were discussed and the matter received some press publicity. Posters and other propaganda material were placed in strategic places about the Council's premises but it was felt that the best results in the long run would be obtained through the patient canvassing of health visitors and school nurses.

Further steps to improve the public awareness of the dangers involved in smoking will be taken in the light of experience. In particular it is hoped to make an approach to senior school children through the headmasters of the various grammar schools and secondary modern schools in the Borough.

### Convalescence

During the year 1957 no case requiring convalescence was dealt with under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

### Venereal Disease

The treatment of Venereal Diseases is the responsibility of the Hospital service, and in Wigan the clinic is under the direction of Dr. Philip S. Silver, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

#### NO. OF WIGAN CASES DEALT WITH FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE V.D.

	TREATMENT CENTRES									
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Syphilis ....	29	37	21	23	11	4	11	12	7	8
Gonorrhoea	29	33	22	9	9	13	10	13	10	6
Other										
Conditions	91	86	69	62	41	59	36	39	37	31
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>149</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>



The Health Committee have continued their arrangements whereby the V.D. Orderly of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary undertakes the duties of Almoner.

Efforts are made to persuade persons who are a source of infection to attend for treatment at the Centre. Contact is made with patients who fail to attend for treatment with a view to stressing the importance of continued attendance at the clinic. The work done by the Almoner has been found to produce satisfactory results.

The following is an extract from the Almoner's report for the year 1957 :—

Total number of contacts persuaded to attend were :—

Males 4 ; Females 4.

Patients failing to attend for treatment, etc., are the biggest problem and the following action has been taken to try and persuade them to attend. 58 letters were sent to patients failing to attend. Of these it was found : 46 reported for treatment, etc.

2 left district.

1 transferred to Radium Clinic.

1 patient died.

1 patient defaulted before completion of treatment.

12 personal visits were made to the home addresses of patients who failed to attend after several letters had been sent.

## Tuberculosis

Statistical information regarding the prevalence of and mortality from tuberculosis will be found in that section of the Report dealing with infectious diseases.

The Tuberculosis Visitor is a full-time member of the Local Authority Health Visiting Staff, the work of this health visitor being divided between attendance with the Chest Physician at the Dispensary and visiting patients in their homes.

During the year, 1,703 home visits were paid by the tuberculosis health visitor.

The number of new contacts examined during the past three years was as follows :—

1955			1956			1957		
Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total
116	108	224	137	106	243	134	122	256
Contacts of positive cases under supervision, 31st December, 1957						....	....	427
Contacts under supervision after B.C.G. inoculation						....	....	302

The average number of contacts per case of pulmonary T.B. is as follows :—

NOTIFICATIONS :			1955	1956	1957
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	....	....	55	46	61
Other forms	....	....	11	7	2
No. of contacts per case (pulmonary only)	....	....	4.1	5.3	4.2



All cases of death from respiratory tuberculosis which remained un-notified during life are the subject of special contact investigations.

The responsibility of the Council for providing care and after-care services at present is being discharged through a voluntary Care Committee. The aims of this Committee may be stated as follows :—

1. To provide extra nourishments, nursing utensils, wheel chairs, etc.
2. To help in providing extra clothing needed by the patients, especially when they go into sanatorium and on their return home.
3. To visit and give friendly advice.
4. To assist in educating public opinion in matters of health in regard to Tuberculosis.
5. To give assistance in providing tools in cases where tuberculous persons entering into employment are not so assisted by the Ministry of Labour.

The Chest Physician acts as an honorary Medical Officer to this Committee.

During the year arrangements were continued for organised classes in all manner of light craft work and sewing. These were well attended and should form a prominent feature of the work of the Committee in the future, although we lack a suitable building where fixed equipment can be erected.

### **Housing of Tuberculous Cases**

During the year 8 cases of Infectious Tuberculosis involving 8 families residing in houses where this disease was known to exist were re-housed in accommodation which ensured adequate isolation. Visits were paid to a large number of dwellings following reports of suspected tuberculosis and a thorough investigation was carried out in each case.

In every instance contact was made with the Consultant Chest Physician who gave every assistance in arriving at a decision as to the degree of priority to be given in each case submitted to the Committee.

### **Rehabilitation**

Very few known sputum positive cases are actually employed in permanent positions, and constant supervision by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor ensures that these few do not become a danger to other susceptible groups.

Persons who are fit for light work are referred to the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer with suitable recommendation.

Patients have been admitted for training and colonization at Barrowmore Hall, the local health authority undertaking part maintenance.

### **Bacille Calmette Guerin Vaccination**

At present this is limited to hospital staff, contacts and children of infected families. The Chest Physician has supplied the following figures showing the numbers dealt with during 1957 :—

Children under 15 years of age :—

Total No.				B.C.G.
Skin Patch				Vaccinated
Tested	Contacts	Positive	Negative	
264	182	135	129	66

92 children were patch tested after B.C.G.—all showed a positive skin reaction.

These figures do not include work carried out amongst hospital staff.

## **Mental Illness and Defectiveness**

Details of work under this section are given under Mental Health Service. page 55.

## **Other Illnesses**

Close liaison between the health visitors and the social worker engaged on work amongst the physically handicapped under the Council's scheme (see Page 87) ensured that advice and help are readily available to those in need once their condition becomes known to the Department.

## **Meals on Wheels Service**

A Scheme (within the Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946) for the delivery of a mid-day meal to individuals unable, because of illness or physical disability, to provide their own was put into operation in May, 1951.

The meals are prepared by the School Meals Service.

The food is served in individual covered containers. The charge per meal is 1s. 4d., but in necessitous cases it is reduced to 1s.

8,498 meals were provided on 255 days during the year.

A maximum of three meals per week are provided in each case and the service is greatly appreciated.

Besides its value in preventing malnutrition, a regular visit by an interested voluntary worker and a member of the staff of the department has a beneficial effect on the morale of the recipients who feel that they are not forgotten and can ask for help if they require it.

## **DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE**

Two helps are employed full time and at the end of the year 60 part-time helps were on the register.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of families availing themselves of the Service. During 1957 domestic help was provided in 630 cases—53 confinements, 5 tuberculous, 548 chronic sick including aged and infirm and 24 others—compared with a total of 539 in 1956.

## **Charges for Service**

The standard charge operating during the year was 3s. 6d. per hour but in very few cases was the recipient called upon to pay the full cost. All cases whose family income is such that they must ask for relief are assessed according to a scale agreed by the Health Committee. The aged and chronic sick form the bulk of the cases helped by the Service. From the 13th May, 1957, all necessitous cases, previously assessed to pay minimum charges, were granted the Service free of charge.

The Home Help, Meals on Wheels and the Bedding Loan Services still form the backbone of the Department's effort to maintain the aged in their own homes and so relieve pressure on Part III Hostel beds. The rising expenditure on these services must therefore be looked upon as an economy in the long run.



## MENTAL HEALTH

No major alterations to the service have been made during the year. The service includes :—

- (i) The ascertainment of cases of mental ill health and mental deficiency in the community.
- (ii) The initial proceedings for the admission to hospital of persons suffering from mental illness.
- (iii) The domiciliary after care of patients discharged from mental hospitals and measures for the prevention of mental illness in the community.
- (iv) The statutory supervision, guardianship and training of mental defectives in the community, and the initial proceedings for the admission to hospital of defectives requiring this form of care.
- (v) The welfare and resettlement of defectives and discharge from hospital.

### Administration

(a) The Health Committee is responsible for the control of this service and deals with all matters appertaining thereto.

(b) The Medical Officer of Health is the Executive Officer.

The Medical Officer of Health together with Dr. R. McL. Bain, Assistant Medical Officer and Dr. D. M. Mather, are appointed as approved medical practitioners for the purpose of giving certificates of mental defectiveness under Sections 3 and 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The Medical Officer of Health together with Dr. R. McL. Bain, Assistant Medical Officer and Dr. D. M. Mather, Medical Officer at Billinge Hospital, Dr. J. S. Mather and Dr. D. N. Mackinnon, general practitioners with extensive experience of mental illness are appointed as approved for the purpose of giving medical certificates under Section 1 (3) and 5 (3) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

The staff of three full-time duly authorised officers and mental health visitors—two male and one female—was augmented by the appointment of a trainee mental health visitor.

### Mental Deficiency

All mental defectives under the supervision of the local health authority are visited regularly by the mental health workers who deal with all matters relating to their welfare.

Every assistance is given to defectives suitable for employment by contact with the Ministry of Labour and prospective employers.

During the year, 12 cases were removed from statutory supervision. In each case the defective had become stabilised, in regular employment, and earning a satisfactory wage.

One case on licence from Brockhall Hospital was found employment by the mental health workers on leaving hospital. This patient has co-operated with the department and proved to be satisfactory, and has been discharged from hospital.

During the year one case under Guardianship was discharged from order. This form of care was found to be no longer necessary, but supervision has continued on an informal basis.

The difficulty of obtaining hospital care is still a pressing problem, but it has been possible to obtain short-term care in some cases, which has been of great help to the parents.

Co-ordination is maintained with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees. The local health authority provide all home reports

in respect of defectives on licence from hospitals, and in respect of patients where licensing, holidays and continuation of orders are being considered.

The Medical Superintendent of Brockhall Hospital is available for consultation on cases of mental deficiency which present special difficulty.

### **Mental Illness**

This includes all matters dealing with the prevention, care and after-care of persons suffering from mental illness.

A 24-hour service is in operation for arranging admission to hospital of patients requiring urgent treatment.

Where necessary the department assists in the admission of voluntary patients and an officer of the department accompanies the patient to hospital.

Social Histories are forwarded to the appropriate hospital in respect of all patients admitted.

Liaison with the Consultant Psychiatrist employed by the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee is maintained, and a duly authorised officer and mental health visitor attends the clinic each week and obtains the social history in respect of all patients attending from the County Borough of Wigan. Where necessary an officer from the department accompanies the patient to the clinic. Where out-patient treatment is recommended, every encouragement is given to patients to keep appointments and complete treatment.

### **Prevention**

This aspect of mental health work is considered to be of major importance.

Many potential breakdowns are referred to the department by medical practitioners and other agencies, and the timely offer of assistance by the case-worker has proved the turning point in many instances, *e.g.* (1) Arranged appointment to attend psychiatric clinic at an early date; (2) marital or domestic relationships restored after being on the point of breakdown.

Close co-operation is maintained with welfare services, child care officers, probation officers, housing department, etc., to resolve any problem.

Special attention has been given to the mental deterioration in elderly people. With the increase in the aged population this is becoming a major problem in the field of mental health.

In a number of cases, admission to a mental hospital has been avoided and marked improvement in the patients' mental condition achieved, through the co-ordinated efforts of the mental health worker, district nurse, home help, etc. The Royal Commission's recommendations on informal admission to hospital are particularly welcome in respect of the aged.

### **After Care**

All cases are visited on discharge from hospital, which is of great importance in the re-habilitation of the patient. Every endeavour is made to obtain the co-operation of the relatives, and help them to understand the patients' difficulties.

Many patients appreciate the opportunity of discussing their personal problems in the privacy of their own homes, and it has been found that case-work has its greatest effect in this setting.

Close liaison is maintained with the after-care clinic at Billinge Hospital and patients who have been advised to attend after discharge are given every encouragement to keep their appointments.

The department co-operates with the Ministry of Labour and employers in cases where the question of employment arises.



## Account of Work Undertaken in the Community

Visits to Office by relatives and patients for advice ....	222
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### 1.—Under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts

Cases notified ....	140
Notified cases dealt with as follows :—	
Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890 ....	2
Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890 ....	13
Section 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 ....	39
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930 ....	81
No action taken ....	5

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140

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Cases admitted to hospital under Sec. 20 and 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 were dealt with as follows :—

Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890 ....	5
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930 ....	32
Temporary Patients, Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930 ....	—
Discharged following expiration of order under Sec. 21 (A)	
Lunacy Act, 1890 ....	3
Discharged following expiration of order....	2
Died ....	4
Still in hospital under Section 21 at 31-12-57 ....	6

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52

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No. of cases visited under Sec. 28 of the National Health

Service Act, 1946 ....	155
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No. of visits under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service

Act, 1946 ....	430
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Social Histories for Hospitals and Psychiatric Clinic .... 106

No. of cases in Mental Hospitals on 31-12-57 .... 259

Discharges from Hospitals .... 147

Deaths .... 11

### 2.—Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 - 1938

Cases in M.D. Hospitals at 31-12-57 .... 81

Cases under Guardianship Sec. 6 M.D. Act, 1913 .... —

Cases under Statutory Supervision .... 104

Cases under Voluntary Supervision .... 12

Cases under training (occupation centres) Sec. 30 M.D. Act, 1913 39

Petitions presented, Sec. 5 M.D. Act, 1913 .... 1

Cases admitted to hospitals :—

Sec. 6 M.D. Act, 1913 .... 1

Short term care of Mental Defectives, Sec. 28 National Health Service Act, 1946 :—

Admitted to National Health Service Hospitals .... 5

Admitted to Short Stay Homes .... —

Special Reports made on behalf of M.D. Hospitals .... 38

Home Visits .... 390

## Particulars of cases reported during the year 1957.

## Ascertainment.

(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities under Sec. 57 Education Act, 1944				
(i) Under Sec. 57 (3) Education Act, 1944	....	....	....	7
(ii) Under Sec. 57 (5) Education Act, 1944 :				
On leaving ordinary schools	....	....	....	3
On leaving special schools	....	....	....	—
(b) Other ascertained defectives	....	....	....	—
(c) Other reported cases not at present subject to be dealt with				2
				<hr/> 12
				<hr/>

## Disposal of cases reported during the year :

Placed under Statutory Supervision	....	....	....	10
Placed under Voluntary Supervision	....	....	....	2
Admitted to hospitals	....	....	....	—
				<hr/> 12
				<hr/>

Number of Mental Defectives in Hospitals, under Community Care, including Voluntary Supervision or in “ Places of Safety ” on 1st January, 1957 who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1957 :—

(a) Ceased to be under care	....	....	....	16
(b) Died, removed or lost sight of	....	....	....	2
				<hr/> 18
				<hr/>

Cases awaiting admission to hospital at 31-12-57	....	....	9
--	------	------	---

## TRAINING OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES

### OCCUPATION CENTRE

**Terms:** The Centre is open on all normal school days.

**Staff:** Supervisor  
Deputy Supervisor.  
Three Female Assistant Supervisors.  
One Male Assistant Supervisor.  
One full-time guide help.  
One part-time guide help (17½ hours per week).  
One caretaker.

We are very fortunate in having the services of a voluntary helper one day per week who helps generally and teaches the senior girls cookery. This has proved an item of real interest to the girls.

**Transport:** As in previous years ambulance transport is used to convey children to and from the Centre. Collecting points are arranged wherever possible, but door-to-door transport is necessary in many cases. The provision of transport ensures almost 100% attendance at the Centre.

**Meals:** A mid-day meal is provided on school days. This is cooked and conveyed to the Centre by the School Meals Service. The cost to the children is 1/- per meal.

**School Milk:** All children under the age of 18 years have received one-third pint of pasteurised milk daily.

**Medical and Dental Services:** The following services are provided, either directly or through the School Health Service: Inspection on entry and routine medical inspection (this includes re-assessment of mental ability and actual progress made from time to time); cleanliness inspections; dental treatment; minor ailment treatment (a school nurse attends twice weekly for dressings).

**Curriculum:** Instruction has been given in the following subjects:—

Infants: Speech training;  
Sense training;  
Percussion band, singing;  
Music and movement, physical training, simple folk dancing;  
Personal hygiene and habit training.

In addition the junior boys do handwork, woodwork and gardening and the junior girls do handwork and simple domestic duties.

The senior boys attempt more advanced handwork and rug making, whilst the senior girls do hand loom weaving, needlework, country dancing and receive instruction in all domestic duties and housecraft.

Certain of the children are taught numbers, letters, telling the time, money values, etc.

The success which has attended the woodwork classes not only amongst the senior boys but amongst the junior group is seriously overburdening the present facilities for this type of work. Unless an early start can be made on an industrial centre for the older boys whose training is more or less completed, it will be necessary to double the floor space at present available in the wood-work room.



**Other Activities:** 20 girls and 16 boys spent an enjoyable week's holiday in Lytham St. Annes in May.

The senior boys were taken to Liverpool for a day where they were shown round the docks and shipping by a representative of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

On another occasion two of the senior boys attended the premiere, in Liverpool, of the film "Violent Playground." Part of the proceeds of this show was given to the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped research funds.

**Employment:** 3 boys and 1 girl left the Centre to take up employment. It is very gratifying to learn that they are proving satisfactory.

**Training of Students:** During the year two students from the National Association for Mental Health Course for Supervisors in Manchester have done practical training in the Centre.

Ages of children attending the Centre :

	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16-26	Total.
M. ....	4	2	—	3	1	3	4	3	9	29
F. ....	1	2	5	1	2	5	2	1	12	31

The following is an extract from the attendance register :—

	Borough.	County.	Total.
No. of Children on the register at 1st Jan., 1957	37	26	63
No. of admissions during the year ....	8	5	13
No. of children who ceased to attend ....	7	4	11
No. of children remaining on the register at 31st December, 1957 ....	38	27	65
Average daily attendance during the year ....	33	24	57

## CO-ORDINATION OF HEALTH SERVICES

No changes have been found necessary during the year in the machinery for co-ordination of the three branches of the Health Services in this area.

There is plenty of good will at all levels and the Liaison Committee mentioned in my earlier reports has held regular meetings. Items for discussion included :—

Blood grouping of ante-natal patients.

Propaganda by Paediatrician regarding immunisation and vaccination.  
Geriatric Services and preparation of case histories by staff of local authorities.

Loading and unloading of ambulance at Physiotherapy Department.

Winter Epidemics.

## **Major Accident Organisation**

In the event of a major catastrophe it is essential that all those officers and services who will inevitably be involved shall be aware of the resources, commitments and liabilities of each other and that pre-arranged conventions governing the alerting of the services shall be widely known. To achieve this the co-operation of ambulance, fire, hospital, police and welfare services, both statutory and voluntary, in the County Borough and the surrounding area have been obtained. The Department has published in booklet form, comprehensive schemes drawn up and co-ordinated by officers of the various authorities involved. These schemes are reviewed annually and amendments made in the light of experience.





*Section IV*

**Prevalence of  
and  
Control over  
Infectious Disease**

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 721 notified cases of measles, occurring mainly during the spring and early summer. Nearly half occurred in the Pemberton area.

Whooping Cough accounted for 38 cases, the lowest for five years. 9 of the children were under one year of age, a time when the disease is most dangerous. All mothers are urged to have their children protected against whooping cough in early infancy.

Scarlet Fever amounted to only 25 cases, 15 of which occurred in the 10-15 age group.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the 61 notified, 12 were in the age group 15-25 years. This period when young adolescents leave school to enter industry is undoubtedly one of great risk. It is for this reason that protection with B.C.G. of children in their thirteenth year has been advocated. A pilot scheme was commenced at two schools in November and it is hoped to extend this to all school leavers in the near future.

For the fifth year in succession there was no notified case of Diphtheria.

There were five cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis. Four of these were in the 3-5 year group and were in the Pemberton area. One case, a man of 43 years, died.

Food Poisoning and Dysentery accounted for 8 and 63 cases respectively. These were spread over the first eight months of the year and occurred in all parts of the town.

## Typhoid Fever

A little girl aged 5 years, attending school, became ill with slight sickness and general malaise during the second week in June, 1957.

As the vomiting recurred during the following week and there was some diarrhoea the general practitioner was called in and the child was put to bed. She did not respond to treatment and was seen by the Paediatrician on the 28th June and forthwith admitted to Whelley Isolation Hospital.

*Salmonella Typhi* organisms were isolated from the faeces and the case was officially notified as typhoid on the 2nd July. The question was—what was the origin of the infection?

The household consists of father, mother, son and daughter (the patient) and the maternal grandfather and grandmother. No member of the family had any complaint of illness and no cases of diarrhoea or sickness were known in the immediate neighbourhood.

On the 1st July specimens of blood and faeces of the whole family were sent for examination—all were negative except the grandmother's specimen. In her case the faeces gave a positive result and the Widal Test for that date gave a doubtful result. On the 5th July a repeat Widal was reported as positive.

The grandmother volunteered the information that in 1910 she and one of her daughters, not now a member of the household, had suffered from typhoid and after recovery the grandmother had her gall bladder removed on account of gall-stones. Since then she has been quite well. Her household duties were chiefly concerned with housework but she did a certain amount of cooking.

Several repeat specimens of blood and faeces were taken from the other members of the family but all were negative and none had any symptoms.

The grandmother was given several courses of chloromycetin and specimens were submitted for examination weekly. She did not respond to treatment and has been placed on the Medical Officer's list of a carrier of *Salmonella Typhi*.

On the 20th July faecal cultures of both patient and grandmother were repeated and belong to the VI—Phage Type D I, indicating that the grandmother was the source of the patient's infection. It is most unusual for a carrier to be discovered active 47 years after her initial infection.

Immunisation with TAB was offered to all members of the household, except the patient, and was refused.

The patient was discharged home well from Hospital on the 23rd July, having had 3 negative reports prior to discharge. She was kept under supervision and on 8th August it was found that she was again excreting typhoid organisms. As she had been a fretful patient in hospital it was arranged that the family doctor should give her a full 3 weeks course of chloromycetin at home, isolation being insisted upon. Following this 3 negative specimens were reported on and 3 further specimens at weekly intervals were also negative.

The child was then considered to be clear of the organisms and was allowed to return to school on 17th September. Since then she has remained quite well.



## Investigation of an Outbreak of Food Poisoning

On the 17th August information reached the Department from the surrounding area indicating that there was an outbreak of acute food poisoning amongst persons dwelling in that area. It appeared that about twenty people had been taken to hospital suffering from vomiting, diarrhoea and extreme prostration. One of them, a man of 68 years, subsequently died.

Preliminary investigation indicated that all the affected had had a meal at one of the restaurants in the Borough three or four hours prior to the onset of illness. On receipt of this information investigations were put in hand and samples of left-over food from the meal in question were sent for laboratory investigation.

The staff who had prepared the meal were examined and excluded from work pending the results of bacteriological investigation. From the clinical picture supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer and our investigation at the restaurant it appeared fairly certain that the persons involved had suffered an acute attack of food poisoning caused by staphylococcal toxin. Administratively there seemed to be no point in closing the restaurant completely, especially as all members of the cooking staff who had been involved in any way in the preparation of the meal remained off work pending the results of bacteriological investigation. Sterilisation of all the equipment was carried out and cleansing of the premises was particularly thorough and included re-decoration of the kitchen walls and ceiling.

Bacteriological investigation indicated that staphylococci were certainly present on kitchen equipment and that two members of the staff were nasal or skin carriers. Specimens of all haemolytic staphylococci were submitted to the Central Laboratory for Phage typing and the report upon these indicated that organisms in the vomit of one patient and two specimens of cooked chicken were of the same Phage type. This was presumed to be the epidemic strain. Specimens taken from two food handlers were of a different type.

The Deputy Coroner held an inquest into the cause of death of the fatal case. This was established as due to cardiac failure due to coronary insufficiency likely to have been accelerated by vomiting and diarrhoea caused by staphylococcal food poisoning: Misadventure.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

On the 27th June, 1957, No. 6 Mass Radiography Unit paid a visit to Wigan.

During the visit x-ray examinations were carried out on part-time helpers in the School Meals Service and also a routine check on members of the staff who are regularly in contact with groups of children was made.

A visit was also made to the Welfare Home, Frog Lane, for the purpose of examining 'casuals.' Only a small number of persons were available, however, and x-ray was carried out on 11 individuals. Two of these required to have further investigation—one a man of 67 with bilateral apical tuberculosis of dubious activity. He had refused treatment for this in other towns some months previously. He was referred to the Chest Clinic, activity of the disease was not proven, and he was allowed to go on his travels.

The other was a man of 74 with a diffuse probably benign opacity in the right lung. The man disappeared and was not available for interview.

A common lodging house in the town was visited on account of the discovery of a highly active case of respiratory tuberculosis in one of the residents.

Of the 23 available occupants, 19 agreed to have a chest x-ray, with the results as shown below :—

Normal or non-significant abnormality	....	....	....	....	16
Already under supervision at the Chest Clinic	....	....	....	....	1
Advised further investigation	....	....	....	....	2

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1957.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED																							
	AGE GROUPS									WARD RESIDENCE														
	under 1	1 and 3	3 and 5	5 and 10	10 and 15	15 and 25	25 and 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	St. George	Lindsay	St. Cath.	St. Patrick	St. Thomas	Poolstock	Victoria	St. Andrew	Swinley	All Saints	West Pem.	North Pem.	Central Pem	South Pem.	
At all Ages	55	198	259	313	13	23	44	28	10	22	46	79	80	23	52	46	96	77	20	139	80	90	93	
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria and Memb. Group	6	6	8	16	1	2	18	6	—	—	1	—	—	5	5	6	3	4	3	4	13	10	9	
Dysentery ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	
Measles ...	38	184	223	271	5	—	—	—	—	17	34	62	70	10	35	32	74	61	13	117	57	68	71	
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ...	1	2	1	2	—	1	3	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	4	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	6	15	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	6	1	—	6	3	1	2	
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	1	—	—	1	4	12	19	16	8	2	4	5	4	7	5	3	9	6	3	—	3	5	5	
Other Forms	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	9	5	16	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	10	5	—	—	—	2	3	—	9	2	1	—	
TOTALS	943	198	259	313	13	23	44	28	10	22	46	79	80	23	52	46	96	77	20	139	80	90	93	

Notifications



### Analysis of Notifications by Months, 1957

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	5
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	14	10	17	5	6	2	4	5	—	—	—	—	63
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	8
Measles ...	12	52	124	69	70	217	106	68	1	—	1	1	721
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	4	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	14
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Scarlet Fever ...	3	3	7	3	3	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	25
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	4	6	6	5	4	11	4	4	5	4	5	3	61
Other Forms ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	7	8	16	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
	44	93	163	87	88	236	122	86	9	5	6	4	943

### Comparative Notifications for the Past Ten Years

DISEASE	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic ...	1	1	5	—	2	5	—	1	—	5
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	2	3	1
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	8	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	60	3	7	1	1	106	9	64	63
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	18	14	11	3	9	8	5	4	3	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	14	8
Measles ...	1465	321	544	1059	539	1219	271	1400	96	721
Meningococcal Infection ...	4	1	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	45	73	89	97	69	28	24	19	12	14
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	4	4	1	1	—	2	2	1	4
Scarlet Fever ...	839	146	138	85	44	180	155	44	44	25
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	79	72	73	73	56	67	81	55	46	61
Other Forms ...	24	12	14	21	15	16	7	12	7	2
Whooping Cough ...	104	157	106	202	29	278	55	89	133	38
	2595	862	991	1554	768	1808	708	1641	423	943

Tuberculosis  
Notifications, 1957

Formal Notifications

			Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis													Total (all ages)
			0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	
Respiratory—Males	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	6	9	5	10	6	2	43
Respiratory—Females	...	...	—	1	—	—	4	4	4	2	2	—	1	—	—	18
Non-Respiratory—Males	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Respiratory—Female...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Cases Coming to the Notice of the Medical Officer of Health  
Otherwise than by Formal Notification

SOURCE OF INFORMATION			0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total
Death Returns from Local Registrars	Resp.	M. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A
		F. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	B
	Non- Resp.	M. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
		F. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
Death Returns from Registrar General-Trans- ferable Deaths	Resp.	M. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A
		F. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	B
	Non- Resp.	M. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
		F. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
Posthumous Notifications	Resp.	M. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	A
		F. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	B
	Non- Resp.	M. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
		F. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D

TOTALS : A—1, B—0, C—0, D—0.

# Notifications and Deaths in Wards

WARDS		Estimated Population	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
			Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	TOTALS	Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	Other forms of Tuber- culosis	TOTALS
No. 1—	St. George ...	2098	2	—	2	—	—	—
No. 2—	Lindsay ...	4503	4	—	4	—	—	—
No. 3—	St. Catharine ...	5168	5	1	6	2	—	2
No. 4—	St. Patrick ...	5595	4	—	4	1	—	1
No. 5—	St. Thomas ...	2292	7	—	7	1	—	1
No. 6—	Poolstock ...	3458	5	—	5	1	—	1
No. 7—	Victoria ...	2697	3	1	4	1	—	1
No. 8—	St. Andrew ...	15735	9	—	9	1	—	1
No. 9—	Swinley ...	9843	6	—	6	—	—	—
No. 10—	All Saints ...	1917	3	—	3	—	—	—
No. 11—	West Pemberton ...	7045	—	—	—	1	—	1
No. 12—	North ...	5993	3	—	3	1	—	1
No. 13—	Central ...	9077	5	—	5	3	—	3
No. 14—	South ...	6249	5	—	5	1	—	1
TOTALS ...		81,670	61	2	63	13	—	13

Estimated Population of Wards is based on current Voters' List.



### New Cases and Mortality During 1957

AGE PERIODS :	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ... ..	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— ... ..	4	8	—	1	—	—	—	—
25— ... ..	15	4	1	—	2	1	—	—
45— ... ..	15	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65— ... ..	6	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
75— ... ..	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS... ..	43	18	1	1	12	1	—	—

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 13, against 10 in 1956, and 10 in 1955. No deaths from other tubercular infections occurred during the year, against 1 in 1956, and 1 in 1955.

The rates are as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis .... 0.16 per 1,000 of population.  
Other Tuberculous Diseases .... Nil.

If taken together as tuberculous infections, we have 13 deaths or a rate of 0.16 per 1,000 of the population.

### Comparative Statistics, 1953 to 1957

#### Cases Notified

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Pulmonary ....	67	81	55	46	61
Other forms of tuberculosis	16	7	12	7	2
TOTALS ....	83	88	67	53	63

#### Deaths

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Pulmonary ....	20	24	10	10	13
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	—
TOTALS ....	21	25	11	11	13

#### Death Rates

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Pulmonary ....	0.24	0.29	0.12	0.12	0.16
Other forms of tuberculosis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
TOTALS ....	0.25	0.30	0.13	0.13	0.16

## DISINFECTION

Arrangements have been made to use the old disinfector at the Welfare Home, Frog Lane, for the disinfection of bedding, etc. which has been associated with cases of certain infectious diseases.

Disinfection of rooms has been criticised, and in fact described as a useless procedure. Assuming that disinfection does not totally destroy the infecting organisms, it does impress the persons concerned of the necessity for cleanliness and care, and ensures a thorough scrubbing and cleansing of the rooms, which is doubtless of great hygienic value, especially in dirty houses.

### Distribution of Disinfectants

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious disease has occurred, and in cases where there are exceptional circumstances. Other persons who desire supplies are charged a small amount to meet the cost of the disinfectant.

Information on the correct use of these agents is given by the public health inspectors.





*Section V*

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**National Assistance Act, 1948**

*Part III*

**Welfare Services**

## ADMINISTRATION

The Authority's Welfare Services, under the National Assistance Act, continue to be controlled by the Health Committee. Two sub-committees have been concerned with the Welfare functions as follows :—

The Health (Accommodation) Sub-Committee, which deals with the provision of residential and temporary accommodation, with the assistance of aged in their own homes and with the administration of social and handicraft centres.

The Health (Blind and Other Handicapped Persons) Sub-Committee, which deals with the provisions of Welfare Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted, for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and for the general classes of Handicapped Persons. All services are administered by the Welfare Services Section of the Department and the total number of staff employed on Welfare Services at 31st December, 1957, was 82, made up as follows :—

Administrative and Clerical (including persons in charge of Homes) ....	14
Home Staffs (Other than persons in charge) ....	64
Staff employed at Social and Handicraft Centres (including Occupational Therapist) ....	4
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

## RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

SEC. 21 (a).

The following table shows the numbers of aged persons provided with residential accommodation as at 31-12-57.

	Douglas Bank. (adapted Small Home)		Norley Hall. (New Home)		Rockwood. (adapted Small Home)		St. Stephen's (Former P.A.I).	
Age	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Over 90	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
85-90	1	4	3	3	—	—	3	2
80-85	2	7	4	5	2	1	5	2
75-80	2	4	7	3	3	—	9	6
70-75	1	5	2	2	3	5	5	5
65-70	1	2	1	1	—	1	2	2
Infirm	—	1	—	4	—	1	1	5
Average Ages	79		77		74		74	

Overall average age 77.

Two aged persons are accommodated in Homes provided by other Local Authorities.

## Hostel for Men

In addition to the above, 36 aged men were accommodated in the former Institution. These men required less attention and the need for care arose principally from their lack of supervised accommodation and elementary comforts.

### CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION :

The Standard Charges for the year were :—

St. Stephen's House, Hostel for Men .... £4 1 8

Douglas Bank House, Norley Hall, Rockwood .... £5 11 5

The following amounts were received on assessments made against residents according to the Scale in use at the present time :—

HOME.					£	s.	d.
St. Stephen's House	....	....	....	....	£4,702	13	8
Hostel for Men	....	....	....	....	£3,241	11	6
Douglas Bank House	....	....	....	....	£3,064	6	2
Norley Hall	....	....	....	....	£3,225	13	11
Rockwood	....	....	....	....	£1,493	17	11



## SECTION 21 (b).

**HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Out of a total of 92 cases which sought the Department's advice regarding housing difficulties, further case investigation, sometimes prolonged, was carried out in 53 instances. Of these, 48 cases were families with children.

As in former years, the attitude adopted was generally to prevent ultimate transfer of these applicants to temporary accommodation at the local Welfare Home under provisions of Part III of the National Assistance Act. This resulted in a total of only two families being actually admitted to temporary accommodation. Both these families were large (four and five children, respectively). In other aspects, however, these two families were very different in set-up. In one instance the difficulty was housing while no desperate financial situation was present. The husband was working and the emergency resulted from eviction. This family, after accommodation for a few weeks, found their own house. The other family had been seen during 1955 and 1956. The children had previously been in care, following another eviction. This family was re-housed early in 1958. Two other families left temporary accommodation, again both large family units (both five children). One family found accommodation on their own account, one was re-housed. The position is encouraging insofar as the trend towards permanent re-housing wherever possible was maintained.

However, this situation masks two problems :—

(1) The hard-core cases : There are still four families in temporary accommodation whose problems of re-housing are difficult. On the other hand, it is neither the statutory aim nor the intention of the authorities to make accommodation permanent.

(2) The actual housing problem : Much of the work done resulted not in a constructive solution of the applicant's problem, but in a compromise continuing the *status quo* by means of conciliation and the realisation that no other way was feasible. An analysis of the housing position after the final interview will bear this out.

Remaining with family	....	....	....	....	....	....	19
Remaining with landlord	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Found housing	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Re-housed	....	....	....	....	....	....	3

Both the first categories must be regarded as temporary in most cases. Those remaining with family were usually overcrowded or had continuous quarrels with the other members of the family. In 12 cases, the wife re-visited this department complaining of another emergency, and new action had to be taken. It is to be expected that many cases were 'lost sight of': this could mean, on one hand, that people simply continued to live in the unsatisfactory circumstances they suffered before contacting this department, because only re-housing would mean a real solution. On the other hand, the number who found housing on their own initiative might be larger, as some might not have bothered to notify the department, although a special request to let us know is always made.

During the year, a slightly larger proportion of those seeking the help of the department were earning less than £8 0s. 0d. per week, but again a large majority, earning over eight pounds per week were definitely not poor (8 admitted earning more than £10 0s. 0d.).

#### FINANCIAL SITUATION OF FAMILIES EVICTED :

Earning £8 0s. 0d. or more	....	....	....	....	....	31
(Of these husband and wife working)	....	....	....	....	....	3
Earning £7 19s. 0d. or less	....	....	....	....	....	17
(Of these women alone working)	....	....	....	....	....	3

The position regarding income was taken at the first interview, and, as the subsequent interviews were fairly soon afterwards in the majority of cases, it may easily be that the financial status changed after the last interview. It is also of special interest that of those earning £8 and over, 21 or 68% stated the duration of their present employment to be less than three months.

In some cases as many as three different kinds of work were recorded during the period of contact with this department. For the purpose of this table such cases were classified as 'general labourer.'

Tradesmen (Engineers, builders, bricklayer, driver, cotton operative)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
General labourer	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Rag-dealers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Coal-face workers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Not in employment	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Not known	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2

It may be interesting to note that all but two of those giving their job as miners were amongst the persons in interrupted employment. The picture is often one of an initial period at the coal face, some period as labourer, and return to another colliery. The general picture of employment corresponds much closer to the normal employment pattern than to the traditional 'problem' family set-up with sick or unemployed persons as heads of families. As mentioned before, however, this masks periods of unemployment either before or after the case was dealt with.

#### Number of children and Family Income :

	Over £8	Under £7 19s. 11d.
No children	—	—
One child	12	4
Two children	9	4
Three children	7	4
Four children	2	3
Five children	1	2

This table shows clearly that those families coming to the department for help were mainly small (80% had three children or less, 60% one or two children. At first it would seem that the financial position of the majority would be satisfactory. Yet, one has to take into consideration the particular difficulties facing these families. To state that the problem was housing *per se*, and that these families were thus not problem families would be as wrong as the assumption that it is the availability of Social Counselling that creates cases by undermining their urge for self-help.



The truth lies mid-way between these assumptions. The large majority of cases had been moving about previous to their last abode. Those living with families were mostly doing so as a last resort after various moves from lodging to lodging. In practically all cases there was an element of friction between the couple in question, enhanced by frequent periods of unemployment. This points to a definite difficulty of adaptation inherent in the cases. On the other hand, the difficulty regarding housing cannot be denied. All the families maintained that they were unable to afford buying a house, as they had no savings and mortgages were either unavailable or the deposit too high. There is an acute shortage, in this town, of rented unfurnished accommodation, even for small families or single rooms. The vast majority of families would have been able to manage, on their earnings, had unfurnished accommodation been available at reasonable rent.

It seems that the number of 'low income' families has risen compared with last year. While the percentage of those earning less than £7, or receiving statutory benefits was 43%, the corresponding number is 55% for this year. The reason for this change may be a reflection of the general trend and it must be considered that, in a starting recession, those on the 'fringe' of employment, namely, casual or short-term employment, will be the first group vulnerable to cessation of work. The situation has also hardened during this year regarding availability of mortgages. It is feasible that the latter part of 1958 may prove a very difficult time for this department. The difficulty in finding unfurnished accommodation, particularly for families with relatively low income, was an acute one during the last few years, and has been increasing. The pressure of tenants able to pay high rents has also increased owing to the establishment of new factories and other influx of inhabitants in permanent work. It is, therefore, to be feared that decontrol might have a very unfortunate effect on the type of family requiring the help of the department. The main help given at the moment consists of counselling and advice. This includes letters to the landlord or family member who is the tenant of the premises in question. It is thus the appeal to humanitarian feelings, pointing out the grave situation of a family with children being evicted, which, so far, resulted in temporary withdrawal of notice to quit. At present, the department has infrequent dealings with tenants of unfurnished dwellings, as these are protected (the only cases being eviction of tenant and other difficulties due to sub-tenancy). With the new type of eviction, arising out of the new Rent Act, this humanitarian appeal will be much diminished as this is a country-wide, statutory measure. It may be necessary, therefore, to keep this new problem in mind, so as to provide some special help for this new type of 'statutory' eviction which might occur in 1958.

This might be the point for re-orientation of policy regarding eviction cases. It is clear that the 'difficult family,' with periods of unemployment and inability to compete after rent - decontrol, will be most vulnerable. The result may be increased 'doubling up' and overcrowding with family, which will only perpetuate the problem. Other authorities have counteracted this situation by making available increased sub-standard and half-way house accommodation; it is to be hoped that some measure such as this will be taken to meet the increase of evictions and homeless families which might result from the new legislation.

## **DOMICILIARY WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY**

The Committee recognise that in spite of the provision that can be made in the way of residential accommodation, there will still be a very large proportion of the aged population who are able to, and would desire to, continue living in their own homes.

During the year, 641 visits were made by Welfare Services staff, and help was given on a variety of problems, such as supplementary pensions, grants for bedding, clothing, spectacles, hearing aids and dentures. Every effort is made to bring a measure of relief to elderly persons by means of the Domestic Help Service which is described earlier in this report. In addition, the Home Nursing Service, Meals on Wheels Service, Health Visiting Service and the recently instituted Laundry Service are fully at the disposal of the aged and infirm. The time must come in many cases, however, when the struggle to maintain independence becomes too great a burden. The emphasis must then be switched from helping these persons in their own homes to encouraging them to feel that they might find comfort and peace of mind in sharing a life in a community. It is obvious that as the number of aged persons in the general population increases, the need for hostel accommodation will become greater. All available accommodation is being used to capacity, and unless a start is made on the Springfield Hostel project in the near future, the Council will be seriously embarrassed by the lack of suitable accommodation.

## **CHIROPODY SERVICE**

This service, run on a voluntary basis by the Rotary 'Inner Wheel' members, is available at Crompton Street Centre to aged persons who are unable, through limited means, to visit a chiropodist in the normal way. Since its inauguration in 1956, it has become necessary to add an extra 3-hour session per fortnight and engage another Chiropodist in order to deal with the increased waiting list. During the year 112 sessions were held and 1,414 treatments given. The Rotarians are to be congratulated for helping to mobilise a section of the community which could so easily become homebound.

## **GERIATRIC SERVICE**

Close liaison is maintained with the Consultant Geriatrician, and Welfare Officers of the Department visit and provide social reports for aged persons awaiting hospital beds.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

### **Holidays at Rockwood, Colwyn Bay**

Holidays at the Council's Aged Persons' Home at Colwyn Bay were provided for a number of aged persons who were in need of care and attention for a limited period, whose relatives or friends were themselves desirous of taking a holiday but who for the remainder of the year were prepared to care for them in their own homes.

### **Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention (Section 47)**

It was not found necessary to take action under this Section during the year.

### **Protection of Moveable Property (Section 48)**

No applications were received during the year requesting the Authority to provide protection of moveable property.

### **Burial of the Dead (Section 50)**

During the year, there were 6 applications to the Authority for action to be taken under Section 50 regarding the burial of persons dying in the area of the Council. The service was provided in 3 cases.



## WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS

### Section 29

#### Welfare of the Blind

The functions of the Authority are administered on an agency basis by the Wigan, Leigh and District Society for the Blind. Two Home Teachers are employed and seconded to the Society for duty. The Society provide sheltered employment and training for suitable blind persons, enabling them to engage in work in Workshops for the Blind.

The Home Teaching Service is operated by the Society and is available to all types of people who have become blind. Their needs vary considerably—financial assistance, education, training for employment, pastime occupations, handicrafts and cultural interests. In the course of their duties, the Home Teachers endeavour to establish a friendly contact between themselves and the blind person, so as to inspire confidence and understanding in their association. Regular visiting in their homes is carried out and help given regarding housing, home-help service, etc. The Home Teachers also act as escorts to blind persons attending hospital.

The care of the Deaf Blind Persons without speech is one of the most difficult problems confronting the Home Teacher. All Deaf Blind Persons must have regular visits and means of communication (*e.g.*, The Manual Alphabet) must be taught and used.

The Society act as agents for the “British Wireless for the Blind” Fund and install and maintain all sets free of charge.

Extra amenities such as trips to the seaside, holiday grants, Christmas grants and all kinds of social activities are provided by the Society from the Voluntary Fund and it is only by the generosity of the many donors to the Fund that the Society is able to provide these services to the Blind people of the area.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF REGISTERED BLIND PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS.

Age Group	31-12-57.			NEW CASES REGISTERED Jan. 1st, 1957 to 31st Dec., 1957. Age at Registration.	
	M.	F.	TOTAL.	M.	F.
0 ....	—	—	—	—	—
1 ....	—	—	—	—	—
2 ....	—	—	—	—	—
3 ....	—	—	—	—	—
4 ....	—	1	1	—	—
5-10 ....	1	2	3	—	1
11-15 ....	—	—	—	—	—
16-20 ....	—	—	—	—	—
21-30 ....	1	—	1	—	—
31-39 ....	5	8	13	—	1
40-49 ....	6	4	10	—	—
50-59 ....	9	8	17	—	1
60-64 ....	8	2	10	1	—
65-69 ....	8	10	18	2	—
70-79 ....	22	40	62	2	9
80 & over	19	20	39	4	1
TOTALS ....	79	95	174	9	13

## AGES AT WHICH BLINDNESS OCCURRED.

Age Group.	Total Register.			New Cases Registered during 1957		
	M.	F.	TOTAL.	M.	F.	TOTAL.
0 ....	5	5	10	—	—	—
1 ....	—	2	2	—	—	—
2 ....	1	—	1	—	—	—
3 ....	—	1	1	—	—	—
4 ....	—	2	2	—	—	—
5-10 ....	1	2	3	—	1	1
11-15 ....	1	2	3	—	—	—
16-20 ....	2	1	3	—	—	—
21-30 ....	9	5	14	—	—	—
31-39 ....	4	4	8	—	1	1
40-49 ....	12	3	15	—	—	—
50-59 ....	7	20	27	—	2	2
60-64 ....	6	3	9	2	1	3
65-69 ....	10	14	24	—	—	—
70-79 ....	18	22	40	4	7	11
80 and over	3	9	12	3	1	4
	79	95	174	9	13	22

During the year ended 31st December, 1957, 24 names were added to the Register of Blind Persons and 21 names were removed. Details are shown in the following table :—

No. of registered blind persons at 31-12-56	....	171
No. registered 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1957	....	22
Transfers into Area	....	2
Re-certified	....	Nil.
		—
		24
		—
		195
Deaths	....	19
De-certified	....	1
Removals out of Area	....	1
		—
		21
		—
Number on Register, 31-12-57	....	174

The cause of blindness in the above cases was as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Bilateral Senile Macular Degeneration , ....	1	—
Cataract ....	5	4
Myopic error ....	1	1
Glaucoma ....	—	4
Diabetic Retinopathy ....	—	1
Bilateral Corneal Dystrophy ....	1	—
Arterial degeneration ....	—	1
Iridocyclitis ....	—	2
Bilateral Optic Atrophy ....	1	—

### Follow - up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

(i) No. of cases registered during the year in respect of which Sec. F. Para. 1 of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibro-plasia	Others.
(a) No treatment ....	6	1	—	6
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical) ....	6	4	—	7
(ii) No. of cases at (i) (b) above, which, on follow-up action, have received treatment ....	3	2	—	4

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM :

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	....	....	Nil.
(ii) Number of cases in which—			
(a) Vision lost ....	....	....	Nil.
(b) Vision impaired ....	....	....	Nil.
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	....	....	Nil.

### Register of Partially Sighted Persons

Age Group.	Registered at 31-12-57.			Registered during 1957.		
	M.	F.	TOTAL.	M.	F.	TOTAL.
1 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 ....	1	—	1	—	—	—
4 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ....	—	1	1	—	1	1
11-15 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-20 ....	—	2	2	—	—	—
21-30 ....	2	—	2	—	—	—
31-39 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
40-49 ....	4	—	4	1	—	1
50-59 ....	4	3	7	2	1	3
60-64 ....	—	2	2	—	—	—
65-69 ....	1	1	2	—	—	—
70-79 ....	3	5	8	—	1	1
80 and over	6	2	8	2	—	2
	21	16	37	5	3	8



## Welfare of Blind Children

Two blind children and one partially sighted child, who have been ascertained under the Education Act (Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service) Regulations, 1945, as being in need of special educational treatment, are being maintained by the Authority as follows :—

	M.	F.
St. Vincent's School for the Blind	—	2
Preston School for the Partially Sighted	1	—

## Workshop Employment

Workshops for the Blind are provided in Darlington Street East, Wigan. The Workshops are owned and maintained by the Wigan County Borough Council and the Lancashire County Council, and are administered by a voluntary committee, which has adequate representation of members of the two authorities.

The types of employment and extent of provision available for Borough cases is as follows :—

Brush making....	5 males
Basket making	2 males
Mat making	—
Machine knitters and chair seating	4 females
Others	1 male

On the 31st December, 1957, there were 12 blind persons from the County Borough of Wigan employed in the Workshops.

## Home Workers

There is no Home Workers Scheme in Wigan.

## Placement in Open Industry

The following arrangements have been made for carrying out the placement of blind persons in open industry.

- (1) Each case within the area of the Wigan County Borough be dealt with as it arises.
- (2) That the operation of the placement service be dealt with jointly by the Medical Officer of Health through the Welfare Services Section, the Voluntary Society for the Blind through the Superintendent, and the Local Disablement Resettlement Officer.

## Welfare of the Deaf

The functions of the Authority are in accordance with the approved Scheme administered on an agency basis by the Wigan and District Deaf and Dumb Society, acting as agents for the County Borough of Wigan.



**Deaf Register—Grouping**

Children under 16 :						Male.	Female.
Attending Special School	....	....	....	....		10	1
Attending Other School	....	....	....	....		—	—
Not at School but Educable	....	....	....	....		—	1
Ineducable	....	....	....	....		—	—
Persons aged 16 and upwards :							
Employed	....	....	....	....		22	20
Undergoing Vocational Training	....	....	....	....		—	—
Unemployable but available for and capable of							
training for work	....	....	....	....		2	1
Incapable of or not available for work	....	....	....	....		11	9
						—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	....	....	....	....		<u>45</u>	<u>32</u>

During the year, the Institute has been the main source of the members' social life and recreation, with all the usual activities and entertainments of billiards, table-tennis, dominoes, darts, whist and cinema shows. The Annual Tea Party was held on New Year's Eve and the Annual Trip took the form of a sail to Llandudno.

72 Religious Services were provided for members at the Institute Chapel during the year at which there were 1,200 attendances. A feature of these Services is that they are attended by Anglican, Free Church and Roman Catholic members. Monthly services of Holy Communion were provided by the Vicar of St. Michael's, Wigan, and a very successful Harvest Festival Service was also held.

1,100 visits were made by the Missioner and Welfare Officer to or on behalf of members during the year. These included interpreting at divorce courts, borough courts and various industrial tribunals and medical boards.

During the year, 73 visits were made by the Missioner to employers in the area, and as a result, 40 employment placings were effected—28 of these being changes of employment, 6 new placements and 6 school-leavers. Only one deaf and dumb person has been more than three consecutive weeks out of work during the period.

**Welfare of the Hard of Hearing**

There are 478 known hard-of-hearing persons in the Wigan Borough area.

During the year, help was provided through the local Society for the Deaf in obtaining and repair of Medresco Hearing Aids. Advice and assistance has also been given in individual cases. There is a local Hard of Hearing Fellowship which has a membership of 47.

## Handicapped Persons (General Classes) :

### CLASSIFICATION OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

HANDICAP.	Adults.		Children.		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Amputation .....	37	3	—	—	40
Arthritis and Rheumatism	14	6	—	—	20
Congenital Malformations	15	9	5	—	29
Diseases .....	68	12	—	—	80
Injuries .....	57	7	1	—	65
Organic Nervous Diseases	37	42	5	7	91
Other Nervous and Mental					
Deformities .....	14	11	—	—	25
T.B. (Respiratory) .....	7	1	—	—	8
T.B. (Non-Respiratory) .....	1	—	—	—	1
Other disorders (not specified					
above) .....	8	4	—	—	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	258	95	11	7	371
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total increase since 1956 (total number 341 registered persons) was 34. Four people died during the year, and one does not appear on this list as she died during the year of first registration.

The work carried out fell mainly into two parts : first, the continuation of follow-up, in conjunction with the various other Authorities. Unfortunately, the Y.W.C.A. could not continue the small circle frequented by a few of the handicapped young ladies, but it is hoped to re-open the meetings at a later date. The main trouble was transport for a few of the girls and the fact that at a certain age personal new adventures tend to weaken club cohesion, so that the attendances grew less and less. Four persons were supplied with motor-propelled wheel-chairs and appropriate alterations carried out to foot-paths to enable access to small garages.

The second part of the work in connection with new registrations was often emergency work ; very often the very reason for registration is the urgent need for some type of help or advice and a comparatively high amount of varied work has to be done to cope with these emergencies. To give just one example : an old lady, aged 75, blind, crippled by a fractured hip and suspected cancer in the digestive tract, was left alone by her husband, who had 'run off.' She refused to enter a hospital. After visits, help by neighbours, distant family relations, the general practitioner and, perhaps most, the police, the husband was traced and finally returned after four nights of anxiety. As the family members refused to do any more after years of trouble with this lady and removal by force seemed still inadvisable, the neighbours kept 'looking in.' The policeman on duty was alerted to inspect the house occasionally, as the lady was known to try to get up during the night. The husband had absconded on former occasions, but, on his return, seemed resigned to carry out his duties and has done so since, assisted by home nurses and home help. In other cases, such 'emergencies' may call for long dis-



cussions with persons prior to going to an epileptic colony ; the transfer from one colony to another because of initial unsuitability. In one case, repeated efforts were being made to fulfil the wish of one newly registered asthmatic for residence in the south of the country. He was subsequently visited by the Disablement Resettlement Officer, but found unsuitable for employment. Requests were made through various organisations, some with the kind co-operation of the Cripples' Help Society, Manchester, some through the patient's own Church, and others, again, through a voluntary organisation (the Embankment Fellowship Centre). In the meantime, through the help of the Group Almoner, a temporary place was applied for at a Convalescent Home in Bexhill. When everything, including ambulance, had been laid on, the patient changed his mind a few hours previous to his departure and decided to 'stay where I am' ! These are only two examples and many others could be quoted showing the encouragement and frustration often involved in the day-to-day work.

GROUPING :	Male	Female	Total.
Persons 16 and upwards capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions ....	88	11	99
Persons 16 upwards incapable of normal work but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops ....	84	20	104
Persons of 16 and upwards capable of work only in own home ....	29	15	44
Persons 16 and upwards incapable or not available for work ....	57	49	106
Children under 16 years ....	11	7	18
	269	102	371

The Report for 1956 pointed to the urgent demand for some scheme enabling the considerable number (29%) of people capable of various types of homework to carry out productive work. The favourable influence of gainful occupation for this type of more severely handicapped person is so obvious that its merits need not be stressed here. It must be taken into consideration, however, that the increasing rate of unemployment of able-bodied persons can be expected to make any demand for such a scheme by private enterprise smaller than in 1956.

#### THE NEW CASES.

As pointed out earlier in this report, the total number of new registrations was 34, of which one person died during the year of first registration.

Of those registered, 19 were men and 15 were women. This ratio is very interesting indeed as it represents a changed pattern, in favour of a large increase in women. This is obviously a favourable development. While in the past registration seems to have been connected with working capacity and handicap in relation to bread-winning, it seems that the other activities and advisory capacities of handicapped persons' welfare, including social amenities, have attracted a considerably larger proportion of women.



## Age Structure of New Cases and Working Capacity

The table 'Grouping,' compared with the analysis for 1956, underlines the facts enumerated in the preceding paragraph. Of the 15 newly registered women, as many as 8 or 54% were in the category of 'incapable or not available for work.' This very wide classification masks the extent to which incapability and unwillingness to follow an occupation bring the person in question into this category. While a large percentage of men would doubtlessly be 'incapable' because of the wage-inducement, the position with women is more doubtful. The classification also masks the extent to which the status is amenable to change. This is of much importance in the event of total incapacity, especially if, as in the case of nearly all the 8 women in question, no employment was taken up all their life.

			NEW CASES.		OLD CASES.		TOTAL.
			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Under 16	....	....	—	—	11	7	18
17-64	....	....	16	9	196	78	299
65 and over	....		3	6	45	—	54
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			19	15	252	85	371
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

This table makes the changed male-female ratio and also the changed age ratio of registration abundantly clear. While, for instance, double the number of women than men were registered during 1957 in the 'old age' group, only one elderly woman (who died during 1957) was registered before.

### INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN NEW REGISTRATIONS.

						Male.	Female.
Amputations	....	....	....	....	....	4	1
Arthritis and Rheumatism	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Congenital Malformations	....	....	....	....	....	1	—
Diseases (Digestive System, etc.)	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Injuries	....	....	....	....	....	3	2
Organic Nervous Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	5	9
Other Mental and Nervous Disorders	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
T.B. (Respiratory)	....	....	....	....	....	2	—
T.B. (Non-Respiratory)	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Other disorders	....	....	....	....	....	1	—

The most interesting feature in this table is the high prevalence of 'Organic Nervous Diseases in both, but especially the female group. Three new epileptic cases, all female, were registered, 2 women sufferers from Disseminated Sclerosis, while four women suffered from hemiplegia. Of the men, as many as three were cases of hemiplegia and two had other neurological diseases.

## Other Services

Holidays have been arranged for several blind and other severely disabled persons at the Aged Persons' Home at Colwyn Bay.

## Handicapped Persons (Accommodation)

13 Handicapped Persons are in accommodation provided by other authorities as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Maghull Homes for Epileptics ....	1	3
Langho Epileptic Colony, Blackburn ....	1	1
North London Homes for the Blind ....	1	—
Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies, Southport ....	—	1
Cripples' Help Society, Tan-y-Bryn, Abergele ....	—	1
St. Elizabeth's Home for Epileptics, Much Hadam, Herts.	—	2
"Beachways," Southport ....	1	—
Lingfield Epileptic Colony ....	—	1
	4	9

## Occupational Therapy

The post of Occupational Therapist, which was vacant at the date of the last annual report, was filled in June this year.

During the six month period under review, 140 classes were held at the Handicapped Persons Centres and Homes for the Aged, and 121 visits were made to homebound handicapped persons.

The types of work undertaken by the men are basketry, sea grass stools, staining of stool frames, leatherwork, raffia work, the main occupations of the women being crochet work, embroidery, rug-making, lamp shades, hand and machine knitting and imitation jewellery.

One of the difficulties in connection with this Service has been the disposal of the articles produced. In December this year a Christmas Fair was held at the Welfare Home and approximately £50 of handicraft goods were sold. In view of this success, it is planned to hold a Garden Party and Sale of Goods at Douglas Bank House in the summer months and another Christmas Fair in the ensuing year.

## **VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

Considerable help has been given by the Rotary Club, W.V.S., Old People's Welfare Committees, Welfare Services Comforts Fund Committee, Churches, Youth Organisations and Dramatic Societies in connection with the welfare of aged and handicapped persons. During the year, the following amenities were provided :—

Television Sets to Homes and Centres.

Outings for handicapped people.

Transport of handicapped person to and from employment.

Food parcels and coal to elderly persons at Christmas time.

Books, Magazines, etc., to Homes and Centres.

Clothing in necessitous cases.

Toys for children.

Organising of garden parties and Christmas fairs.

Visiting elderly persons.

Complimentary tickets.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

### **Rest Centres**

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the planning of the Rest Centre Service and during the year there has been maintained a list of 34 premises which have been earmarked for this purpose.

### **Billeting**

Further progress has been made during the year in compiling a register of accommodation in the Borough which could be made available for the billeting of the homeless in the event of war.

### **Training**

At the 31st December, 1957, 372 members of the Civil Defence Corps had been allotted to the Welfare Section.





*Section VI*

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**Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Area**

## WATER SUPPLY

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information on the Borough Water Supply :—

The Borough is supplied with water for domestic and trade purposes from impounding reservoirs at Worthington, from wells at Nicholson's Pit, Winstanley and Bispham Shaft, Billinge, and from bulk supplies obtained from Manchester Corporation by means of pipe lines connected to the Thirlmere aqueduct at Adlington.

The Corporation also owns Reservoirs at Adlington and Pemberton, which are used for compensation purposes only, and a reservoir at Whitley provides water for industrial use. A further source has been developed at Newfoundland Shaft, Adlington, to assist the Corporation in meeting their compensation water obligations.

The catchment areas feeding the impounding reservoirs are mainly devoted to agricultural use and both areas contain farms and isolated dwellings. The Worthington catchment has suffered due to sporadic development along the main roads traversing the area. Constant supervision is necessary to minimise the danger of pollution and local improvements are made from time to time at points of suspected pollution.

The scheme for the augmentation of water supplies was substantially completed during the year, the only portion to be completed being the service reservoirs at Prospect, Standish. The new pipe lines, totalling some 10 miles in length, from the Thirlmere aqueduct at Adlington permit not only for increased domestic supplies but also for large industrial supplies, particularly to the new factory being completed for Messrs. H. J. Heinz & Co. Ltd., at Kitt Green.

The new Pumping Station at the Worthington Waterworks was also completed in the year and is now in use for pumping the water from the Worthington Impounding Reservoirs to the Boars Head service reservoir. The pumps will, in the near future, also pump water from this source to the new service reservoirs at Prospect, Standish.

Slow sand and mechanical filters are provided both at Worthington and at Edgewood. Chlorination plants are installed at Worthington, Edgewood and Bispham; thus all water supplies are chlorinated before distribution, with the exception of the trade supply from Whitley Reservoir.

Tap samples are taken every month from four dwellings selected at random in the Borough, and are despatched for chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples of raw and filtered waters are also obtained and tested. A few adverse tap samples were reported during the year, but local mains flushing and chlorination resulted in satisfactory analyses in later samples.

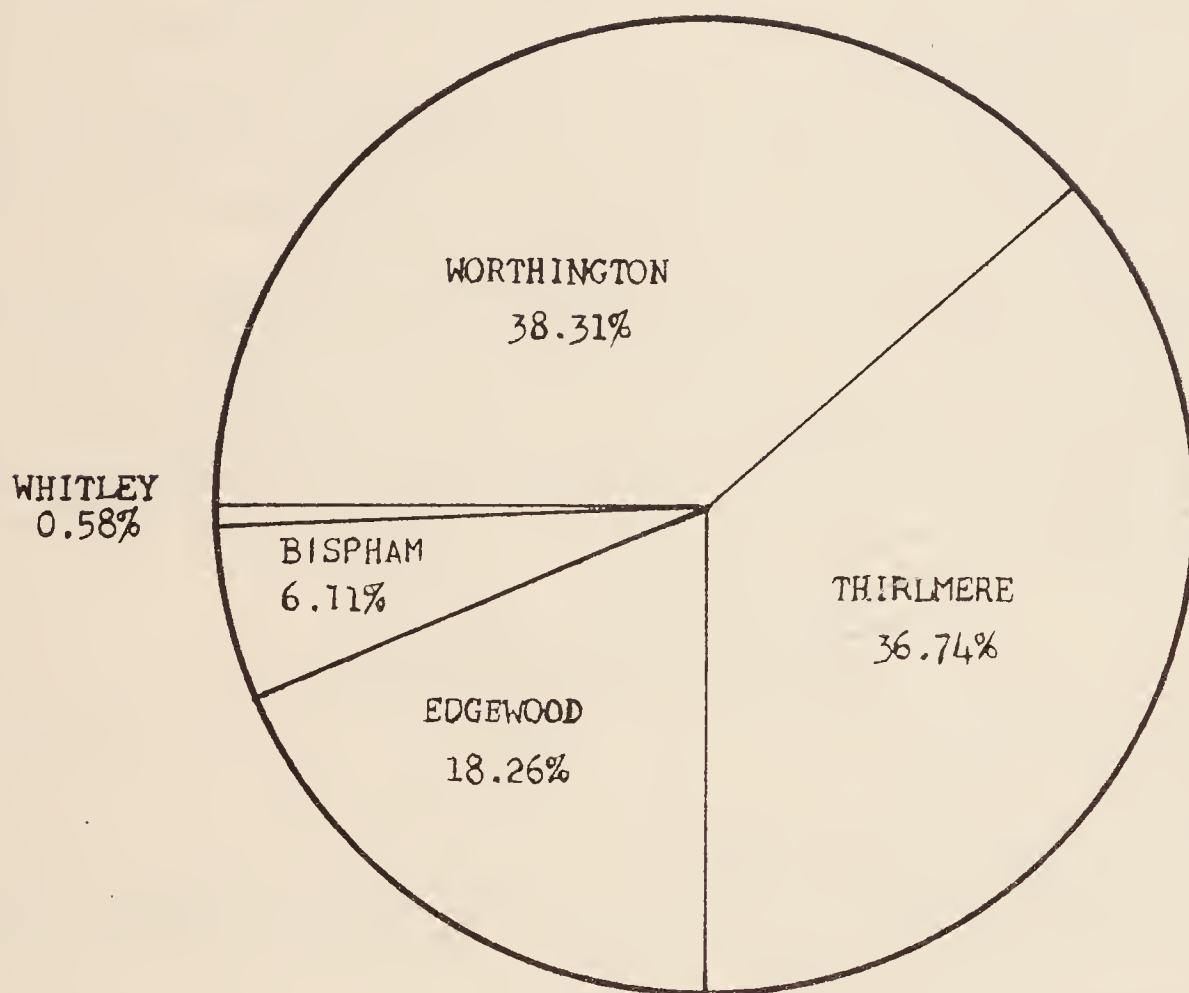
The approximate average daily consumption for domestic purposes reached 2,057,000 gallons, representing approximately 25.19 gallons per head per day for a population of 81,670.

Bulk supplies of water are made to the Orrell U.D.C. and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C., under agreements between the Corporation and the respective Councils. Some dwellings situated on the Borough boundaries are supplied with water by the Orrell U.D.C. and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C.



The following diagram showing the percentages of water supplied from the various sources is extracted from the report of the Waterworks by the Borough and Water Engineer.

### Water Supplied from Various Sources, 1957 - 1958



(Edgewood and Bispham quantities include water pumped from Nicholson's Pit).

### PUBLIC BATHS

The Baths Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Cockrell, has kindly supplied the following statistics and report:—

#### Particulars of the Borough Bathing Establishment for the Year ended 31st March, 1958

Number of Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	2
Number of Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	16

#### Bathers :

Male Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	67,785
Male Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	15,875
Female Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	48,371
Female Private Baths'	....	....	....	....	....	7,937
Mixed Bathing: Adults and Juniors	....	....	....	....	....	9,300
Contracts, Free Passes, Season Tickets, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	22,536

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171,804

Number of Bathers during the past five years :—

Year ended 31st March :

1954	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	161,013
1955	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	135,859
1956	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	195,601
1957	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	165,260
1958	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	171,804

The figures show an increase on the previous year in spite of adverse weather conditions.

Great care is taken to ensure correct Alkalinity and Chlorine content of the Bath Water. Periodical Bacteriological and Chemical tests are made and the results have proved conclusively that the water in the Plunge Baths conforms with the standard advocated by the Ministry of Health.

The Gentlemen's Plunge Bath is now in the process of being stripped, re-tanked and re-tiled, and it is hoped that by the end of May, 1958, that the Bath will be back in commission.

The restricted facilities at the Baths is a constant reminder of the inadequate accommodation and it is hoped that in spite of the credit squeeze the appropriate Ministry will give sympathetic consideration when application is made to extend the existing facilities.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Douglas and the streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The River is badly polluted before entering the Borough and a certain amount of pollution occurs within.

The Lancashire River Board are actively concerned with this problem and are at present carrying out a number of investigations and negotiations throughout the Douglas Valley.

The Board are frequently engaged on the cleaning of the river bed and the maintenance of its banks.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained.

The sewage is conducted from the town by two main outfall sewers, 27 ins. and 36 ins. in diameter, to the Sewage Disposal Works at Hoscar, which are seven miles distant. Before leaving the town the sewage passes through two detritus tanks and also through coarse and fine screens, and at this point the storm water is diverted from the outfall sewers and is conveyed to the storm water treatment works at Pemberton.

Alumino ferric is added to the sewage at Hoscar, which then passes through Preliminary and Secondary Settling Tanks and a battery of circular percolating filters. The effluent from the filters before it is discharged to the River Douglas is passed through humus tanks.

The major scheme of extension and modernisation of the Hoscar Sewage Disposal Works, referred to in my last report is now nearing completion. It is anticipated that the new primary and final settling tanks, together with the two new batteries of biological filters will be brought into operation by June, 1958. The remainder of the new plant, including heated sludge digestion, is in an advanced stage of construction.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer, Mr. G. Keighley, for the following information :—

During the year 1957, the following amounts of sewage have been treated at the Hoscar Moss and Pemberton Sewage Works :—

Pemberton Storm Water Works	....	....	426,105,000	gallons
Hoscar Bacteria Beds	....	....	1,189,101,000	„
Hoscar Drainage Area	....	....	335,538,000	„
<hr/>				
TOTAL SEWAGE TREATED	....	....	1,950,744,000	„
Total solids, detritus tanks, and screen chambers, Pemberton				3,460 tons
Total dried sludge recovered, Hoscar Works	....	....		2,135 tons
Weight of dried sludge per million gallons of sewage	....			1.10 tons
Rainfall for year	....	....		33.71 inches (Hoscar).

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Mr. W. Smith, the Director of Public Cleansing, has supplied the following particulars :—

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—The collection of dry house refuse and trade refuse is carried out by both horse and mechanical transport, working as separate units, and by the Pagefield container system, and the percentage of refuse collected by each system is as follows :—

Horse	....	....	....	....	....	....	7 per cent.
Pagefield container	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 „
Mechanical vehicles	....	....	....	....	....	....	91 „

79 per cent. of the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping.

NIGHTSOIL AND PAIL REFUSE.—The refuse (480 tons) is disposed of direct to farmers as manure. All pails are washed and disinfected after each collection.



**Trade Refuse.**—Fixed charges were introduced on November 1st, 1950 for the removal of this refuse. The shops and business premises in the town centre have a daily collection.

1,300 tons of trade refuse was delivered at the tipping site by private traders and contractors.

A scale of charges, in accordance with vehicle capacity, is operated.

**Gully Cleansing.**—During the year, 17,200 gullies were emptied.

**Public Conveniences.**—The following conveniences and urinals are maintained and cleansed by the department :—

2 public conveniences for ladies and gents., with attendants.

4 public conveniences for ladies and gents., without attendants.

19 public urinals.

All urinals are cleansed and inspected twice per day, including Sundays.

**General.**—The quantity of refuse dealt with by the Refuse Disposal Plant during the year 1957 was 5,953 tons, and the quantity tipped was 22,370 tons. In April, 1950, the Corporation introduced a Dust Bin Renewal Scheme, as a direct rate charge.

During the year 1,896 bins were renewed and 444 sold to private properties not included in the scheme.

123,400,000 square yards of street have been swept during the year.

## CREMATION

The Medical Officer of Health and two Assistant Medical Officers on the Health Department staff act as medical referees to the Corporation Crematorium. During the year under review 345 certificates for cremation were issued.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION

*Mr. Vincent Jones, Chief Public Health Inspector, reports :—*

The year under review has not been an easy one for the Public Health Inspectors section of the Department. But all things considered much work has been done and progress has been made. New legislation in the Rent Act, 1957, which came into force on the 6th July and which revised procedures obtaining in the 1954 Act was followed by numerous applications from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair. Some 327 applications were dealt with up to December.

A considerable amount of work was carried out on the inspection and control of food and food premises. One of the most important services in this regard is meat inspection. To safeguard the public by ensuring that only sound meat is put on the market and that diseased or condemned meat is satisfactorily disposed of takes up much of the inspectors' time in whose districts the 9 private slaughterhouses are situated.

All premises where food is prepared or handled have been visited during the year. This work is of primary importance. Communal feeding in cafes, canteens and such like premises is now an accepted practice. Proper control must be maintained to avoid the possibility of outbreaks of food poisoning. To this end is the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

There is much to be admired in the preparation and consuming of meals in the home. One heard less of food poisoning.

Housing is ever to the forefront in the Inspectors' duties. Whether to make reports on houses as individually unfit or to call for repairs to such houses having regard to the age, character and locality, together with the ability of the Local Authority to re-house is truly a problem. In some cases the landlords have solved the problem with due regard to their own pockets by requesting the Local Authority to issue demolition orders and re-house the occupants. Legal proceedings were taken against two property owners for non-compliance with the Statutory Notices. Fines were imposed in both cases.

Members of the staff have been actively engaged in smoke abatement duties. Preparatory work in the forming of a smoke control area has been carried out. Interviews have taken place with the factory engineers and managements over heavy smoke emissions from the factory chimneys and means for the abatement of such emissions have been fully discussed. As a result of this action there has been a steady diminution in smoke emissions from the factory chimneys.

The general public laid 738 complaints during the year which embrace housing defects and nuisances generally. Where the landlords are indisposed to effect essential repairs or remedy defects to ensure that houses are maintained suitable for habitation then recourse to the service provided by this Department should be made.

The field of hygiene environmental and otherwise has been fully covered during the year by this branch of the Public Health Service, as have varying duties under associated Acts. Sampling has taken place of foodstuffs under the Food and Drugs Act. In addition samples have been taken of fertilisers and animal feeding stuffs and of rag flock and fillings under that Act.



## Summary of Work Undertaken During the Year

Houses and premises inspected and visited <i>re</i> nuisances and complaints	2347
Re-visits to Nuisances	5894
Other visits made	595
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)	539
Nuisances discovered	2932
Nuisances abated	2499
Notices issued (preliminary)	977
Notices issued (formal)	372
Letters issued <i>re</i> Nuisances	529
Visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	403
Re-visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	879
Visits <i>re</i> Certificates of Disrepair	892
„ Infectious disease	211
Visits to slaughterhouses	3545
Visits <i>re</i> offensive trades	7
Visits to markets	188
„ butchers' shops	300
„ food preparers	161
„ caterers	156
„ other food shops	811
„ dairies	118
„ milkshops	41
„ ice-cream manufacturers	57
„ ice-cream shops...	79
„ bakehouses	81
„ houses let-in-lodgings	3
„ common lodging houses	47
„ factories—power	186
„ factories—non-power	18
„ offices	18
„ cinemas	4
„ places of entertainment	12
„ caravans	84
„ caravans on fairgrounds	8
„ canal boats	5
„ <i>re</i> means of escape in case of fire	27
„ rats and mice—dwellings	2602
„ „ „ other premises	15418
„ smoke abatement	498
No. of shops observations	236
Visits to Shops under Shops Act	273
Visits <i>re</i> Poisons Act	22
Visits to premises <i>re</i> applications for tenancy of Council houses	89
„ <i>re</i> Merchandise Marks Act	12
„ conversions	12
„ to verminous premises	142
Reports to Borough Engineer <i>re</i> dangerous structures	29
Watercourse Inspections	25
Visits <i>re</i> Food Hygiene Regulations	33
„ Diseases of Animals Act	8
„ Waste Food Order	2
„ to Licensed Premises	13



## Samples Obtained

Food and Drugs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	248
Water (for chemical analysis)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	38
Water, Milk and Ice-cream (for bacteriological examination)								283
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Rag flock	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5

## Atmospheric Pollution

There has been a further small reduction in the amount of industrial pollution due to the awareness of the provisions of the Clean Air Act, brought to the users' notice by the inspector, and a voluntary change-over to the use of fuel oil instead of coal by some small industrial plants. This fuel is just as smoke producing as coal, but it lends itself to much better control of combustion resulting in greater efficiency and smokeless conditions.

Pollution from domestic sources carries on at roughly the same level and is the major problem in the Borough. Many approved appliances have been installed by householders but coal is still being used and although this has resulted in improved heating efficiency in the home it unfortunately results in no reduction in pollution.

No reduction in domestic pollution can be achieved unless smoke control areas in which the use of smokeless fuels is obligatory are brought into being. Further reductions could be made by making it a condition of tenancy of Corporation dwellings that all tenants use only smokeless fuels. It does seem rather futile to equip these houses with approved appliances, which produce the best conditions inside the home and at the same time reduce atmospheric pollution, without ensuring that the fuels for which they were designed are used.

## Offensive Trades

The offensive trade premises in the Borough comprise: 1 fell-monger 1 fat boiler, 1 gut scraper and fat boiler and 1 gut scraper.

Visits have been paid to these premises and no cause for complaint has been found.

## The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1951

Five samples were taken during the year and the results of the examinations were satisfactory.

## Canal Boats Act, 1877 and 1884, and Public Health Act, 1936

No. of boats registered at Wigan and still in use or available	....	10
„ inspections	....	5

### Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

The joint inspection of factories is carried out by the Local Authority's Public Health Inspector and the Factory Inspector of the Ministry of Labour and it is pleasing to notice that as a result of the happy co-operation, defects which are generally of a minor nature are dealt with immediately. Certificates of Means of Escape in Case of Fire are issued by this department and the percentage of these issued by the Corporation is well above the national average.

Certificates granted for adequate means of escape in case of fire	16
Letters sent out	8
No. of factories on register	407
„ visits to factories	204
„ visits to bakehouses	81

The following defects were dealt with :—

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	5
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	12
Require limewashing or cleansing	4
No. of defects remedied	12
„ notices received from H.M. Inspector	20

### Shops Act, 1950

In addition to the health provisions of the Shops Acts it is also the responsibility of the department to enforce those sections of the Act relating to trading hours, half-day closing and Sunday trading. Generally the health standards for the shop assistants are maintained at a good level but on occasions complaints are received, usually from other traders, about contraventions relating to trading hours. The offenders are often persons new to business practice or new firms to the Borough. In all cases verbal warnings have been found to achieve the desired effect.

No. of observations	236
No. of visits	273

### Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933

No. of " Listed Sellers " on register	100
---------------------------------------	-----

## Places of Entertainment

These premises are invariably kept in a satisfactory condition. In addition to routine visits all the places of entertainment, numbering 32, are inspected and reported on annually prior to the granting of the licence.

## Rodent Control

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

There are three rodent operators on the establishment of the Department. Their duties are to comply with the provisions laid down in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Treatment of the sewers is carried out twice a year. This work entails the laying of baits in some 2,000 manholes on the sewerage system. The rodent operators are assisted in this work by two employees from the Borough Engineer's Department.

That the rodent is a carrier of diseases communicable to man needs no stressing to people who have resided in Eastern countries. The same applies in this country but to a much lesser degree.

The object of these services is to keep down the numbers of these animals and so lessen possible infections from food contamination and as they are also very destructive so minimise the damage done by them.

These services are free to all householders and the public would be well advised to make the fullest use of them and report the presence of rats and mice when found on their premises.

Visits paid by rodent operators :—

[illegible]





*Section VII*

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**Housing**

## HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Insufficient new houses are available to re-house people from unfit dwellings on which demolition orders have been made. A drastic speeding up of the house building programme is necessary not only to deal with the back log of condemned houses but also to enable future demolition orders to be enforced immediately after they become effective. Only in this way can these unfortunate people be prevented from spending long periods in unfit houses to which no repairs can be reasonably expected.

Housing accommodation as at 31st December, 1957 :—

No. of dwelling-houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	23,590
„ business premises with living accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	....	979
„ licensed premises with living accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	....	149
							<hr/>
							24,718
							<hr/>

No. of dwelling-houses erected in 1957 :—

By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	....	194
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	....	63

### Common Lodging Houses

No. of common lodging houses in the Borough	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
„ lodgers allowed nightly	....	....	....	....	....	....	177
„ visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	47

### Houses Let-in Lodgings

No. of houses on register	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
„ visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	3



## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN DURING THE YEAR

In 6 cases it was necessary to issue summonses against persons for non-compliance with abatement notices. In 5 cases nuisance orders were made by the Court for the work to be carried out within one month and in 1 case a nuisance order was made by the Court for the work to be carried out within six months.

## THE HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

178 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, but 7 of these were withdrawn. 160 were from tenants who had not been served with a notice of increase of rent by the landlord and were dealt with under the 1920 Act, and 11 were from tenants who had received the notices of increase of rent as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. One was refused and 170 certificates were granted.

52 applications for revocation of certificates were received. One application was refused and 23 certificates were revoked. 31 were outstanding and 5th July, 1957.

## RENT ACT, 1957

This Act came into force on the 5th July, 1957, and revised the procedure in connection with the issue of Certificates of Disrepair.

In the period to the end of 1957, 327 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair. In 160 cases the landlords gave undertakings to carry out the necessary work within six months, but 12 of these undertakings were refused by the local authority.

Four applications for certificates were refused and 143 certificates were issued, leaving 32 applications outstanding at the end of the year.

61 applications for the revocation of certificates were received. Twelve of the tenants objected to the cancellation of certificates but in two cases the local authority decided to cancel in spite of the tenants' objection. 48 certificates were cancelled, and 3 applications were outstanding at 31st December.

## CARAVANS

The old practice of business men and others of obtaining 'digs' whilst conducting their business in the town has been changed by the advent of the caravan. In the public health world, however, the parking of caravans on unpaved and undrained sites is frowned upon and steps are taken to ensure that their stay is short. But another situation arises when vans are accommodated in private car parks where there is no provision laid down relating to paved and drained sites for cars, and it is difficult to bring pressure to bear for the removal of these caravans.

If a caravan site becomes a necessity owing to this change of affairs it is considered that the centre of town is not ideal, nor any place bounded on any side by a watercourse. A caravan site should be some distance from the town centre, with a paved site, suitable drainage, water supply and the usual sanitary amenities.



*Section VIII*

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**Inspection and  
Supervision of Food**



## EXAMINATION OF WATER

### Chemical Analysis

During the year 38 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Analyst for examination.

The results of these examinations, expressed in averages, are given below :—

	Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	Worthington & Thirlmere
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Temporary Hardness .....	13.4	13.2	5.2
Permanent Hardness .....	9.4	8.9	9.4
Total Hardness .....	22.8	22.1	14.6
Alkalinity .....	14.1	14.5	5.2
Combined Chlorine .....	3.25	3.05	2.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen .....	0.0000	0.0000	0.00007
Albuminoid Nitrogen .....	0.0006	0.0014	0.0032
Nitrogen as Nitrites .....	—	—	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	0.138	0.132	0.146
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. ....	0.038	0.065	0.109
PH Value .....	6.87	6.72	6.94

### Bacteriological Examination

During the year 50 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination. 5 further special samples were taken to find possible sources of pollution from farms in the district.

### MILK SUPPLY

There were four dairies in the town at the beginning of the year busily engaged in pasteurising milk. In the month of June one of these dairies closed their pasteurising plant and now retail bottled milk supplied to them by a large national concern.

The passing of these small firms to large national concerns is to be regretted.

Local supervision of all milk supplies to local dairies is desirable and is well maintained. Raw milk supplied to the dairies is sampled for purposes of ascertaining its chemical composition. The treated milk is sampled and submitted to the bacteriologist for methylene blue tests and phosphatase tests for proof of efficient pasteurisation. The bottle washing plants are supervised and their efficiency proved by submitting washed bottles to the bacteriologist for the appropriate tests.

It is gratifying to report that all samples taken from the plants have been reported on favourably by the bacteriologist.

No of visits to dairies	....	....	....	....	....	....	118
„ milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	....	41
No. of dealers licensed for the sale of sterilised milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	383
„ licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	158
„ licensed for the sale of tuberculin tested milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	59
No. of dealer (pasteuriser's) licences	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
„ persons registered as distributors of milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	394
„ premises registered as dairies	....	....	....	....	....	....	7

58 samples of milk were obtained for analysis and submitted to the Public Analyst. 14 of these were the subject of adverse reports.

### Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

142 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination :—

PASTEURISED : 114 111 samples passed the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests. 3 samples were declared void.

TUBERCULIN TESTED : 15 All samples passed the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests.  
(pasteurised)

STERILISED : 13 In all cases the Turbidity Test was negative.

6 samples of raw milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the T. B. inoculation test. In all cases there was no evidence of tuberculous infection.

3 samples of milk bottles were obtained for Colony Counts. The results were satisfactory.

### ICE CREAM

There are five registered manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. They employ up-to-date pasteurising and freezing plants for the making of ice cream.

Samples taken during the year and submitted for examination have produced good results from the point of quality and purity.

The retailing of ice cream from vehicles on the streets has received special attention. These vehicles are equipped with facilities for hand washing.

The bacteriological reports are expressed in grades and their quality is determined as satisfactory when classed in Grades 1 and 2, and unsatisfactory when placed in Grades 3 and 4.

Grade 1.—59.

Grade 2.—6.

Grade 3.—5.

Grade 4.—7.

7 samples of ice cream were also taken under the Food and Drugs Act and submitted to the Public Analyst. These were reported as satisfactory.

### Retailers

The number of premises registered under Section 34 of the Wigan Corporation Act, 1933 for the sale of ice cream on 31st December, 1957 was 284.

**FOOD PREMISES**

Number of food premises in the Borough :—

'Purveyor of Meat' premises	92
Restaurants, cafes and snack bars	39
Fried Fish shops	77
Grocery shops	382
Greengrocery shops	57

Number of food premises registered :

Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955—

Butchers	7
Wholesale grocers	1
Pie maker	1
Confectioner	1

Section 34, Wigan Corporation Act, 1933—

Ice cream premises	284
--------------------	-----

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54 :—

Dairies	9
---------	---

**Inspection of Food Premises**

The following is a summary of the defects discovered at food premises upon inspection :—

Defective floor	19
Defective floor covering	6
Lack of cleanliness of floor	3
Defective walls	9
Lack of cleanliness of walls	21
Defective ceilings	7
Lack of cleanliness of ceilings	20
Defective doors	8
Defective windows	1
Inadequate natural and/or artificial lighting	4
Inadequate ventilation	4
Insufficient personal washing facilities	31
Inadequate sinks	22
Defective sinks	1
Inadequate hot water supply	6
Insufficient refuse accommodation	6
Sanitary Accommodation :—	
Defective	2
Lack of cleanliness	3
Inadequate artificial lighting	3
No first aid kit	9
Absence of clothes lockers	8
Danger of contamination	12
Lack of cleanliness of equipment	2
'Hand washing' notices absent	1
Defective benches, counters, etc.	21



## Education

Education of shopkeepers in connection with 'clean food' has been carried out by means of individual talks on the premises and by the distribution of suitable pamphlets obtained from the Central Council for Health Education.

## Food Hygiene

A considerable number of visits have been paid to premises which are subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations. Very little difficulty has been experienced in dealing with premises used solely for the food trade. The position is appreciated by the traders and necessary work is readily carried out.

Food premises set up in the front ground floor rooms of dwelling-houses present quite a problem. These premises are often restricted in shop space with a living room in the rear and do not lend themselves to the installations necessary where open food is sold. In such cases every endeavour is made to convince the shopkeepers that only prepacked articles should be sold.

When dealing with food hygiene cases the inspectors exercise the utmost discretion and tact to bring about conformity with the food laws.

It is very gratifying to hear from the traders that the general public are noting the improvements which have been introduced, such as the screening of food, and that the display of food behind glass, once considered by them to be detrimental to trade, has now acquired merit.

The task of bringing all food premises up to the prescribed structural requirements is almost completed but by far the greatest problem is the education of the food handler in hygienic practices of his trade. Only when this most prolonged and painstaking task is achieved can the Food Hygiene Regulations be said to be effective.

Education is being achieved by a two-fold approach. Firstly the personal approach by the public health inspector to the food handler whilst working. Many such visits have been made with the full co-operation of the owners. It is during these visits the reason for the structural alteration and the need for hygienic observances are explained. Secondly the continued use of the excellent illustrated posters and pamphlets issued by the Central Council for Health Education keep this need for cleanliness and care constantly before all handlers of food.

## MARKET HALL

The Market Hall has been extended and now contains the wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable market. There are 21 retail fruit stalls and 5 wholesale fruit and vegetable stands in this new extension.

The fruit retailers formerly traded from wooden stalls under a veranda and also in the open air on the Market Street side of the Market Hall.

The new stalls fully comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. There are facilities for vegetable washing and adequate supplies of hot water for other purposes conveniently accessible.

Many inspections paid to these premises have not disclosed any real cause for complaint. The former practice of stacked vegetables on pavements has been eliminated.

MEAT INSPECTION

The nine private slaughterhouses in the town, three of which are bacon factories, still retain their licences. Should the contents of the recent Government white paper become law, then of necessity a few of these slaughterhouses must be seriously considered regarding suitability of premises when the question of the renewing of the licences crops up at the end of the year. In the meantime in the absence of any prospect of a public abbatoir being built it must be stated in all fairness that improvements are being effected and that these premises possess all modern equipment and have cooling rooms. General cleanliness is strictly observed.

In fact all things considered whilst a number of these slaughterhouses are not ideal, until alternative accommodation is provided, they are serving the needs of the community with a sound meat supply.

59 slaughtermen applied for the renewal of their licences during the year.

All condemned meat and ofal is subject to staining, prior to being disposed of by a local firm of fat boilers.

No. of visits to	slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	....	3545
,,	markets....	....	....	....	....	....	188
,,	butchers' shops	....	....	....	....	....	300
,,	certificates issued (condemned food)				....	....	689

### Carcases Examined During the Year 1957

		Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	TOTAL
Carcases examined	....	3283	9786	631	18196	22619	54515
Carcases totally condemned....	....	6	27	7	15	9	64
Percentage totally condemned....	....	0.18	0.28	1.11	0.08	0.04	0.12

### Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Horses
Number killed ... ..	3283	9786	631	18196	22619	—
Number inspected ... ..	3283	9786	631	18196	22619	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI :						
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	—	10	6	10	9	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	332	2620	5	2605	765	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	10.1	26.9	1.7	14.4	3.4	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	6	17	1	5	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	205	2599	—	545	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	6.4	26.7	0.2	3.0	—	—
CYSTICERCOSIS :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	10	25	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	1	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—



The following meat and offal from the slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1957.

	Whole carcase and all Offal Con- demned	Part of Carcase Con- demned	OFFAL CONDEMNED									
			Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Stomachs	Spleens	Skirts	Kidneys	Udders	Mesen- teries
Affected with Tuberculosis :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	6	4	58	164	27	—	1	5	7	4	—	29
Cows ... ..	17	56	864	2418	373	10	52	72	78	17	20	157
Calves ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	5	10	473	178	95	49	10	4	—	1	—	18
Sheep ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with Cysticercosis :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	—	—	10	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cows ... ..	—	—	16	—	—	12	—	—	2	—	—	—
Calves ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with other Diseases :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	—	1	6	60	288	3	1	4	2	12	—	2
Cows ... ..	10	2	16	263	2383	25	36	61	14	260	185	42
Calves ... ..	6	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pigs ... ..	10	—	5	2361	506	487	13	2	—	114	9	16
Sheep ... ..	9	—	—	40	753	4	—	—	—	4	—	—
	64	73	1448	5487	4426	593	113	148	103	414	214	264

### Summary of Other Food Condemned, 1957.

Meat	1733 lbs.
Canned Meat	987 lbs.
Fish	602 lbs.
Canned Fish	112 lbs.
Canned Fruit	706 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	730
Canned Milk	266
Canned Jam	5
Canned Soup	45
Packages of Other Food	325
Other canned or bottled foods	272
Bacon	234 lbs.
Boiled Ham	21 lbs.
Rolled Oats	56 lbs.
Mussels	2 cwt.

All food condemned, other than meat, is destroyed at the Frog Lane Depot  
— of the Corporation Cleansing Department.

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 — SAMPLING.

During the year 248 samples of milk and various other foods obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

## SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1957.

ARTICLES	Total Number analysed	Samples regarded as adulterated below standard or otherwise not complying with the prescribed requirements		ARTICLES	Total Number analysed	Samples regarded as adulterated below standard or otherwise not complying with the prescribed requirements	
		Number	%			Number	%
Arrowroot . . .	1	—	—	Lentils .....	2	—	—
Baking Powder	2	—	—	Liquid Paraffin	1	—	—
Barley ' .....	1	—	—	Margarine .....	4	—	—
Beans (tinned)	1	—	—	Margarine 10%	2	—	—
Beef Extract ...	1	—	—	Butter .....			
Beef (minced)...	1	—	—	Meat paste .....	3	—	—
Bicarb. of soda	2	—	—	Meat pie .....	3	—	—
Biscuits .....	2	—	—	Milk .....	58	14	24.1
Bismuth tabs.	2	—	—	Milk (tinned) ...	6	—	—
Black puddings	1	—	—	Mincemeat .....	1	1	100
Blanemge.pdr.	1	—	—	Mustard .....	1	—	—
Boracic ointmt	1	—	—	Olive oil .....	1	—	—
Boracic pdr. ...	2	—	—	Peanuts.....	1	1	100
Bovril .....	1	—	—	Peas (dried) .....	2	—	—
Bread .....	2	—	—	Peas (tinned) ...	1	—	—
Butter .....	4	—	—	Peel .....	1	—	—
Cake .....	4	—	—	Pepper .....	2	—	—
Cheese .....	3	—	—	Pickles .....	2	—	—
Cherries(tinned)	1	—	—	Pineapplechnks.	1	—	—
Chutney .....	1	—	—	Plum pudding ...	1	—	—
Citric acid .....	1	—	—	Raisins .....	1	—	—
Cocoa .....	1	—	—	Rennet .....	1	—	—
Coconut dess.	1	—	—	Rice .....	1	—	—
Coffee .....	5	—	—	Rum .....	1	—	—
Confections.....	5	—	—	Saccharin .....	2	—	—
Cornflour .....	1	—	—	Sago .....	1	—	—
Cream of tartar	1	—	—	Salad cream ...	1	—	—
Custard pdr. ...	2	—	—	Sardines .....	2	—	—
Dripping .....	3	—	—	Sauce.....	1	—	—
Embrocation	1	1	100	Sausage .....	4	2	50
Epsom salts ...	1	—	—	Semolina .....	2	—	—
Eucalyptus oil	1	—	—	Soft drink .....	2	—	—
Fish cakes .....	2	—	—	Soup .....	2	—	—
Fish paste .....	7	—	—	Spice .....	1	—	—
Flour .....	4	—	—	Steak (stewed)	2	—	—
Friar's Balsam	1	—	—	Strawberries ...	2	2	100
Gelatine .....	1	—	—	Sugar.....	1	—	—
Gin .....	1	—	—	Sultanas .....	1	—	—
Glucose .....	1	—	—	Tapioca .....	2	—	—
Gravy browning	3	—	—	Tea .....	5	—	—
Herb .....	1	—	—	Throat lozs. ....	1	—	—
Honey .....	2	—	—	Tomato juice ...	1	—	—
Ice-cream .....	7	—	—	Tomatoes (tin.)	1	—	—
Icing (choc.) ...	1	—	—	Treacle .....	2	—	—
Iodine .....	1	—	—	Vinegar .....	2	—	—
Jam .....	5	—	—	Vitamin caps. ...	1	—	—
Jelly .....	5	1	20	Whisky .....	1	—	—
Lard .....	4	—	—	Yeast & malt ...	1	—	—
Lemon curd ...	1	—	—	Yeast & sulphur	1	—	—
Lemon flavour	1	—	—	tablets			
Lemonade pdr.	2	—	—	Zinc & castor oil	2	—	—
				cream			
Action taken in regard to 22 unsatisfactory samples is given on Page 118.					248	22	8.9

## Samples Not Up to Satisfactory Standards

Article	No. of Sample		Report	Remarks
	Informal	Formal		
Milk .....		24	Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	Genuine but abnormal.
Milk .....	68		Deficient in fat to the extent of 13.3%	Formal samples taken—satisfactory.
Milk .....	81		Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	Genuine but abnormal.
Milk .....	92		Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1%	Genuine but abnormal.
Milk .....	93		Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%	Formal samples 100—103 taken.
Salted Peanuts .....	94		Salted Peanuts incorrectly labelled. Did not conform to Article 9 (1) of Labelling of Food Order 1953	Warning letter sent.
Milk .....		100	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%	Analyst advised that legal proceedings were inadvisable.
Milk .....		101	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%	
Milk .....		103	Deficient in solids-not-fat to an extent corresponding with the presence of 3.5% of extraneous water	
Milk .....		105	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3% and in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	Deficiencies not caused by the presence of extraneous water.
Milk .....		106	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6% and solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	
Milk .....		107	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6% and containing 1.1% of extraneous water.	Analyst advised no action.
Milk .....		111	Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1%	Genuine but abnormal.
Embrocation	124		Deficient in turpentine oil to the extent of 26% of the quantity declared	Warning to manufacturers.
Milk .....		156	Deficient in fat to the extent of 10%	Remainder of consignment reported as genuine milk. No further action.
Milk .....		167	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%	
Table Jelly	195		Did not conform to the setting test prescribed by the Food Standards (Table Jellies) Order, 1949	No action taken.
Strawberries (Tinned)	197		Contaminated with extraneous sand and grit	Formal sample No. 221 taken.
Strawberries (Tinned)		221	Contaminated with extraneous sand and grit	No further action.
Mincemeat	237		Deficient in soluble solids to the extent of 6.9%	do.
Pork sausage	244		Contained sulphur dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared	Preservative Notice displayed in shop.
Beef sausage	247		Contained sulphur dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared	do.



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST

I am indebted to the Borough Analyst, Mr. J. Graham Sherratt, B.Sc., F.R.I.C. for the following remarks on the work carried out on behalf of the Corporation during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1957.

### Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Total number of samples of Foods and Drugs analysed	....	248
Number of samples not up to satisfactory standards	....	22
Percentage unsatisfactory	....	8.8

The total of 248 samples analysed during 1957 included 58 samples of liquid milk, 175 samples of miscellaneous foods and drinks and 15 samples of drugs. Fourteen of the samples of milk, 7 samples of miscellaneous foods and one drug were regarded as not satisfactory.

### Sub-standard Samples

#### Milk

Of the fourteen samples of milk, four were satisfactory in respect of solids-not-fat but contained less than the presumptive minimum of 3.0 per cent. of fat, prescribed by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939; the deficiencies in fat in the samples ranged from 3.3 to 13.3 per cent. Two other samples were slightly deficient in both fat and solids-not-fat and four were deficient in solids-not-fat only. The application of the freezing point test to all these samples indicated that the respective deficiencies were not caused by the presence of extraneous water. In only two instances was extraneous water found in samples of milk; one sample contained 3.5 per cent., and one sample 1.1 per cent. This last sample was also deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6 per cent.

### Other Sub-standard Samples

The samples other than milk that came within this category included:—two samples of strawberries (tinned) and one each of salted peanuts, embrocation, table jelly, mincemeat, pork sausage and beef sausage.

#### Strawberries

The two samples of strawberries (Nos. 197 and 221) contained extraneous sand and grit, equivalent to approximately 2 grains and 1.4 grains respectively. The grit in sample No. 197 included one small pebble, weighing approximately 1 grain.

#### Salted Peanuts

The sample of salted peanuts, No. 94, did not conform to the Labelling of Food Order. The label of this sample carried the statement "Contains Vitamins A, B and C" but no quantitative information regarding these vitamins was given. Article 9 (1) of the Labelling of Food Order, 1953, specifies that when the label of a food makes a general claim that vitamins are present in the food, the minimum quantity of every such vitamin shall be declared.

## Embrocation

The label of sample No. 124, Embrocation, declared the presence of 35.4 per cent. of turpentine oil. The sample contained only 26 per cent. weight/weight of turpentine oil and it was regarded as deficient to the extent of 26 per cent. of the amount declared. Subsequently, however, the manufacturers stated that the declaration was made on a volume/volume basis. Twenty-six per cent. by weight of turpentine oil is equivalent to approximately 30 per cent. by volume, thus reducing the deficiency in oil to 18 per cent. in comparison with the declaration.

## Table Jelly

Sample No. 195, Table Jelly, did not conform to the official setting test, prescribed by the Food Standards (Table Jellies) Order, 1949.

## Mincemeat

The Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953, requires mincemeat to contain not less than 65 per cent. of soluble solids. Sample No. 237 contained only 60.5 per cent. of soluble solids, corresponding with a deficiency of 6.9 per cent.

## Sausages

Sample No. 244, Pork Sausage, and sample No. 247, Beef Sausage, contained sulphur dioxide preservative. The Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1953, permit the use of sulphur dioxide preservative in sausage, to the extent of not more than 450 parts per million, only if its presence is declared. The samples contained 170 and 180 parts per million of sulphur dioxide, respectively, without declaration.

## Composition of Milk Samples

The average composition of all the samples of milk analysed during 1957 was :—

Average fat	....	....	....	....	....	....	3.43 per cent.
Average solids-not-fat	....	....	....	....	....	....	8.75 per cent.
Average water....	....	....	....	....	....	....	87.82 per cent.

If the non-standard samples are excluded, the average for the 44 ' genuine ' samples was :—

Average fat	....	....	....	....	....	....	3.54 per cent.
Average solids-not-fat	....	....	....	....	....	....	8.82 per cent.
Average Water	....	....	....	....	....	....	87.64 per cent.

## Ice-Cream

Seven samples of Ice-Cream were analysed during the year. The proportion of fat in the samples varied between 5.3 and 9.0 per cent., with an average of 7.5 per cent. ; the range of sugar in the samples was between 12.7 and 17.4 per cent. (average 14.4 per cent.), and the milk solids-not-fat varied between 8.3 and 14.1 per cent. (average 10.3 per cent.). The minimum limits established by the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order are :—fat 5.0 per cent., sugar 10.0 per cent., and milk solids-not-fat 7.5 per cent. The samples of ice-cream were all well above the minimum limits.

The remaining samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were of satisfactory quality and do not call for special comment.

## Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

Six samples of compound fertiliser and six samples of feeding stuffs were analysed during the year. The samples of fertiliser conformed to the requirements of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations, 1955, after making due allowance for the permitted limits of variation. Four of the samples of feeding stuffs did not conform to the respective statutory statements: details of these samples are given below:—

Sample Number	Nature of Sample.	Details of Analysis		Extent of variation outside permitted limits.
		Declared.	Found.	
7	Pig Fattening Meal	Oil ..... 21½%	2.1%	—
		Protein ..... 13%	15.4%	1.1% excess.
		Fibre ..... 5½%	4.2%	—
9	Breeders Pellets	Oil ..... 3½%	2.5%	0.25% deficient.
		Protein ..... 18%	17.9%	—
		Fibre ..... 6%	3.4%	—
11	Dairy Meal	Oil ..... 4½%	3.3%	0.45% deficient.
		Protein ... 21%	20.3%	—
		Fibre ..... 6½%	5.4%	—
12	Fattening Cakettes	Oil ..... 4½%	3.3%	0.45% deficient.
		Protein ..... 20%	20.3%	—
		Fibre ..... 6%	5.6%	—

## Waters

During the year 40 samples of water were examined. They included 38 samples of tap water for routine analysis and 2 samples of baths water. The organic condition of the routine samples was satisfactory and all were safe for domestic use. The samples of baths water were also satisfactory.

J. GRAHAM SHERRATT,  
*Public Analyst.*



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